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Vol. 54, No. 6 Whole Number 438

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EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

THE COVER—The starry-eyed young lady on the cover is Helen Josella Olga Ferguson, who at fourteen is enjoying a professional success as Grace Davis in *Street Scene*. Helen sings, acts, and dances. She is one of a group of girls her age who put across the Langston Hughes lyrics and the Kurt Weill music in such songs as "Wrapped in a Ribbon and Tied in a Bow." She is the only brown one. Helen finds the work easy, since her regular talking voice is a musical thrill.

•

HAROLD A. LETT ("Employment: A Civil Right in New Jersey," page 170) is chief assistant to the Commissioner, Division Against Discrimination, in the New Jersey Department of Education. A native of Michigan, Mr. Lett received his education in Minnesota, Michigan, and New Jersey on a catch-as-catch-can basis. He has worked as a secretary in industry, was statistician in the Michigan department of labor, and completed sixteen years of service with the Urban League organizations in Pittsburgh, Newark, and New Jersey. Mr. Lett is also an old NAACP member and worker, having been one of the organizers of the Lansing, Michigan, branch back in 1919 and a consistent member and supporter since that time.

•

JOHN LOVELL, JR. ("Singing in the Streets," page 172) is assistant professor of English at Howard university, Washington, D. C., and a rabid theatregoer. This piece is the first one in a series that Dr. Lovell is writing on significant Broadway plays.

•

GEORGE PADMORE ("The Sudanese Want Independence," page 178) is already well-known to *Crisis* readers for his penetrating articles on Africa, European colonialism, and the West Indies. His book *How Britain Rules Africa* is already a classic in its field. In 1946 he brought out *How Russia Transformed Her Colonial Empire*, with the sub-title, "A Challenge to the Imperialist Powers." Mr. Padmore is the author of many pamphlets on colonialism and African problems and he also finds time to edit the "Colonial Parliamentary Bulletin," a monthly record of the colonies in Westminster.

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College and School News

KNOXVILLE COLLEGE announces the publication of a little volume of studies in devotional experience, *The Way of Worship in Every-Day Life*, by Wm. Lloyd Imes, published by The Light and Life Press of Winona Lake, Indiana.

Senior musical recitals at the college ran from March 31 to April 28, featuring the nine seniors of the college of music: Misses F. Davidson, N. Sims, D. Willis, R. Houston, K. Sanders, E. Levister, and M. Ross in voice, piano, and organ; and C. Gregory and E. Goins in voice.

Five faculty members of KENTUCKY STATE COLLEGE are on leave for advanced study, as follows: David H. Bradford, head of the department of history and government, University of Chicago; M. P. Carmichael, head of the department of sociology and economics, Columbia university; Mrs. Minnie J. Hitch, principal, Rosenwald training school, University of Chicago; W. W. Jones, head of the department of mathematics and physics, Indiana university; and Arnold W. Wright, assistant professor of sociology and economics, University of Wisconsin.

Rev. Samuel H. Sweeney, pastor of St. Mark's Methodist church, New York City, and Dr. Lester B. Granger, executive secretary, National Urban League, will serve as baccalaureate and commencement speakers, respectively, at the annual commencement ceremonies of the college in June.

Estella Arnell, 20, a senior at the college high school of DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE, was recently awarded a certificate of merit by the Pepsi-Cola Scholarship Board as a runner-up for one of the twenty-three four-year college scholarships being granted this year to outstanding seniors in southern colored school systems.

The Virginia Union University Players, headed by James C. Wright, were hosts April 11-12 to the Negro Inter-Collegiate Dramatic Association Festival at VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY. Participants were Bennett, Howard, and Lincoln (Pa). Professor Raymond Hodges, director of drama at the Richmond Professional Institute, was critic judge.

President J. M. Ellison was principal speaker on the second day of the three-day (April 10-12) Washington-Virginia

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Area Conference of the Middle Atlantic Region of the Inter-Seminary movement held at the Union Theological Seminary, Richmond. Union Theological Seminary is a white presbyterian school supported by the southern branch of the Presbyterian church.

A joint alumni dinner between Union, Hampton, and St. Paul was held in Richmond, March 24, with the presidents of the three colleges as guest speakers. Matthew G. Carter, executive secretary Leigh Street YMCA, was chairman of the joint planning committee and presided at the meeting.

Eightieth anniversary founding of JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY was observed April 7, with Dr. Walter L. Lingle, president emeritus of Davidson college, as the principal speaker. Other speakers were Dr. Arthur L. Blackwood, representing the alumni; Clarence O. Kuester, executive vice-president and business manager of the Charlotte, N. C., chamber of commerce; Dr. John M. Gaston, secretary-treasurer of the university; and Mrs. Geneva P. Henry of the class of '37.

A total of 910 students have been enrolled in the college during the current year, three hundred of whom are veterans of World War II. Among recent events were the presentation of *Night Must Fall*, a three-act melodrama, by the Ira Aldridge Dramatic Guild on May 8-9; and the open house of the science department, designed to acquaint the student body with the work of this department.

Four-year college scholarships, which include full tuition, traveling expenses, and a $25-a-month allowance, have been won by 126 students chosen from 9,157 high schools in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, it was announced in April by Floyd W. Reeves, professor of administration at the University of Chicago and president of the PEPSI-COLA SCHOLARSHIP BOARD, which made the awards.

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt memorial plaque, awarded annually by the students and faculty of MIDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL to the person who has done the most to further understanding among peoples of different creeds, colors, and nationalities, was awarded April 16 to Paul Robeson. Judge Hubert T. Delany of the New York City Court of Domestic Relations was the guest speaker.

A three-week "charm school" was conducted in March by the Beta Eta Sigma honorary society of BUTLER COL-

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Founders' day exercises of the FLORIDA NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL COLLEGE were held April 30, with William Mason Cooper, director of extension services and the summer school at Hampton Institute, as the principal speaker.

For the first time in the history of Information Please an appeal for funds was permitted when Tallulah Bankhead, noted actress, asked, April 23, for contributions to the fourth annual campaign of the UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND. Other stars on the program were Jackie Robinson, of the Brooklyn Dodgers, and President Rufus E. Clement of Atlanta university.

Dr. R. C. Johnson, chairman of the division of education and psychology at MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE, was recently elected assistant secretary of the National Conference on Adult Education and the Negro. Holy week service was observed at the college in March under direction of S. T. Thompkins of the Turner Theological Seminary, a division of the college.

Under the direction of Rev. Ernest T. Dixon, Jr., director of religious extension services at Tuskegee, ALABAMA STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE was host to the fifth annual Institute for Rural Church women, March 31-April 4. Fourteenth annual statewide academic meet of the college was held April 8-12.

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY announces the appointment of Dr. Samuel M. Nabrit, chairman of the department of biology, to the newly-created post of dean of the graduate school of arts and sciences. Dr. Nabrit will assume his new office September 1947. A native of Macon, Ga., Dr. Nabrit is a graduate of Morehouse, B. S., '25; and Brown university, M. S., '28; Ph. D., '32; From 1925-32, he was on the biology faculty of Morehouse and since 1932 he has been at his post at Atlanta university.

Frank Neal, young New Yorker, who is one of the players in the Broadway hit *Finian's Rainbow,* received the $300 Edward B. Alford Purchase Award for his oil painting "Oppression" at the university's sixth annual exhibition of paintings, sculpture, and prints by Negro artists. Nine others received cash awards totaling $1,400. Fifty-six artists were represented at the exhibition. Serving on the jury were Lewis P. Skidmore, director of the High Museum

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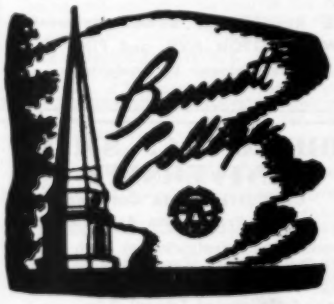

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of Art, Atlanta; Julian Harris, Atlanta sculptor; and Aaron Douglas of the department of art, Fisk. Guest speaker at the opening of the exhibition April 6 was E. Simms Campbell, New York artist.

Under the direction of Dr. Virginia L. Jones, director of the Atlanta University School of Library Service, the university was host May 19-24 to the Public Librarians' Conference. Ninety public librarians from fourteen southern states were in attendance and top-flight librarians throughout the country served as discussion leaders.

Twenty-two students of the School of Library Service visited twelve libraries and other points of interest in Washington, D. C., April 14-18.

Three new trustees were elected to the boards of MOREHOUSE COLLEGE and Atlanta university April 18 in Atlanta. They are Dr. Harry J. Carman, dean of Columbia college; Dr. M. L. King, pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist church of Atlanta; and Dr. Luther Wesley Smith, executive secretary of the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention.

Melvin Dow Kennedy, professor of history at Morehouse, was awarded the degree of Ph.D. in history at the twenty-eighth convocation of the University of Chicago, March 21. His dissertation, "The Supression of the African Slave Trade to the French Colonies, 1815-1846, and Its Aftermath," was written under the direction of Louis Gottschalk. Dr. Kennedy is a native of Worcester, Mass., and holds an A.B. and M.A. from Clark university of that city. He has also studied at Harvard and at the Sorbonne under George Lefebvre.

Sixty-sixth anniversary observance of founders' day was held at SPELMAN COLLEGE in April, with President Clyde A. Milner of Guilford college as the principal speaker. At the founders' day rally, the sum of $5,214 was reported from students, alumnae, faculty, and friends.

New member of the board of trustees of Spelman is Mrs. Laurence Rockefeller of New York City, elected at the an-

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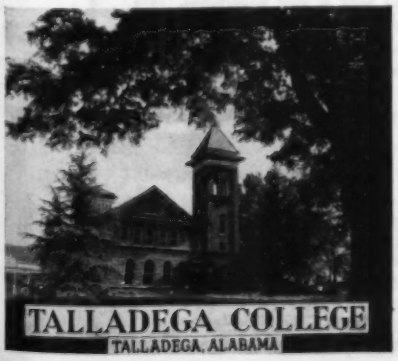

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nual board meeting in Atlanta, April 19.

Approximately 200 alumnae, joined by faculty and friends of the college, turned out in April to pay homage to the two decades of service rendered Spelman by President Florence M. Read. As a token of their esteem, the alumnae, through Mrs. Sadye Harris Powell, presented Miss Read with a handsome Hamilton wristwatch.

Dr. Herman G. Canady, professor of psychology and philosophy at WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE, has been appointed to the editorial board of the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Criminology* to be published by the Philosophical Library. Dr. Canady will contribute a paper on "The Negro in Crime."

Among recent events at the college have been: Army day, April 7; Pan-American day, April 13; music education conference, April 18; sixth annual speaking contest in the Spanish language, April 22; contest in speaking French, May 6; and first conference of the border states region of the land-grant colleges social study project, April 25-26.

Prime purpose of Pan-American day, April 13, was to raise funds for Haitian welfare aid. In response to an appeal to the colleges of America from Mme. Dumarsais Estime, wife of the president of Haiti, to raise $25,000 to build a home for under-nourished Haitian children near Port-au-Prince, Mrs. John W. Davis organized the West Virginia State College Committee. Proceeds from the affair amounted to $3,093.72, which was turned over by Mrs. Davis to Haitian ambassador, M. Joseph D. Charles.

Carl Van Vechten, novelist and music critic, formally opened the George Gershwin Memorial Collection of Music and Musical Literature at FISK UNIVERSITY April 25 in ceremonies highlighting Fisk's annual Festival of Music and Art. Designed to be the nucelus for a growing musical library and named in honor of the famed composer, the collection contains numerous books, program notes, musical scores, clippings, personal correspondence, photographs, and phonograph records. In founding the collection, Mr. Van Vechten said he hoped it would encourage serious musical scholarship in the South. Members of the family of the late Lee J. Loventhal of Nashville, Tenn., have established a fund to furnish the room in the university library housing the George Gershwin Memorial Collection.

Dean A. A. Taylor announces 70

(*Continued on page 190*)

PHILIPPA SCHUYLER, *accompanied by her mother (right), visits the Shaw university nursery school in search for talent. Miss Schuyler gave a concert at Shaw, April* 18-19.

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Editorials

THE D.A.R. AGAIN

THE Daughters of the American Revolution have just concluded their convention in their beloved Constitution hall in Washington, D. C. The good ladies had a lot to say about Communism and called upon every member to dedicate herself as a holy committee of one to fight the Communists.

Hardly a word was said, however, in this patriotic gathering about the barring of Negro artists from Constitution hall. This irritating matter, so insignificant compared to fighting Communism, was settled in the D.A.R. equivalent of a "smoke-filled room" prior to the convention, so that no nasty debate would distract the ladies from their crusade against the Reds. In the pre-conference caucus it was agreed to continue the present policy, that is, the lily-white policy.

Isn't it tragic that some of our Negroes are rumored to be bending an attentive ear to the Communists who go around preaching the subversive doctrine of equality and no discrimination?

THE ARMY SAYS "NO"

CONGRESSMAN Adam Clayton Powell drafted a bill which abolishes segregation in the armed services. Before introducing it he wrote the Navy department, the War department, and the Treasury department (which has charge of the Coast Guard) and asked each one if it had any objections to the bill.

The Navy said it had none.

The Treasury said it had none.

The War department said it could not endorse the bill because it had a plan for the use of Negro manpower.

Secretary Robert P. Patterson of the War department was referring, of course, to the so-called Gillem report which the department adopted as its policy after hearings had been held on Negro soldiers in World War II.

The Gillem plan is supposed to provide for the gradual integration of Negroes into the army. Despite the publicity it received as an instrument for abolishing segregation, it does nothing of the sort. Briefly stated, it provides for: (a) integration of a small, highly selected number of Negro specialists and technicians without segregation in such technical capacities and such installations where feasible; (b) the use of Negro *units* of no larger size than regiments with white *units;* and (c) the training and promotion of Negro officers on the same basis as other officers.

That is the backbone of the Gillem plan in so far as it relates to integration. Under it a few Negro specialists here and there may be assigned without regard to color to a technical job. The plan perpetuates Negro units up to regiment size. It may permit a Negro platoon to serve in a white regiment, or a Negro regiment in a white division. In fact, the old 24th Infantry regiment is now supposed to be in Japan as a part of the 25th division. Under this plan Negro truck units, mess units, labor outfits, and other all-Negro groups may be attached to a white outfit, just as they were in the last war. *There is no change in the segregated pattern.*

As for Negro officers, there appears to be little, if any, improvement in their situation. They are to be assigned to Negro units only. They may (as they did in the last war) stand by and see white officers installed in Negro units and given the opportunity thus to win promotion. The Negro officer remains hamstrung in the Jim Crow pattern.

Naturally, the War department does not approve of Congressman Powell's bill. It would upset the applecart. Which brings us to the question of—

COMPULSORY MILITARY TRAINING

PEACETIME military training is the "baby" of the War Department. It wants mightily to get its hands on every lad in the nation to train him to fight. It has set up a model training camp at Ft. Knox, Ky., to prove to mothers and fathers and other doubters that this kind of training is good for Junior, and differs from the hard camp life revealed to millions (soldier and civilian) during the war. The President's Commission on Military Training is shortly to make its report.

Well, our conviction remains the same as it was when the matter was eased into public discussion by the late President Roosevelt. Negro Americans want no part of compulsory military training if it is to be in the segregated pattern. The memory of their bitter experiences with army Jim Crow in the last war is too green for them to vote for more Jim Crow.

Very possibly there are Negro pacifists by sincere conviction. Very possibly there are thoughtful Negroes who are disturbed over the indoctrination of all youth—Negro and white—with military concepts. Very possibly there are Negroes who want to know what nation we expect to fight. But these are not, at the moment, the paramount questions. The big question is on racial segregation.

The vast majority of Negro Americans does not want its young boys bruised and humiliated at an impressionable age by being separated off from their fellows, and made the target of all the cruelties inherent in army segregations. Negroes do not want millions of white boys taught by the army that Jim Crow is the method of dealing with Negroes. They have fought separatism for generations. Today they are challenging it on every front—in education, employment, housing, politics, travel, and recreation. In the war black boys took insults and offered their lives to aid in the attainment of greater freedom for men of every race, color, and religion over the globe.

Does anyone imagine that Negro Americans have come out of the peculiar travail of this war only to submit willingly to the pattern of 1866, when the Negro Tenth cavalry regiment was born, or even to the pattern of 1941? Their overwhelming vote on segregated compulsory military training is certain to be "No!"

Employment: A Civil Right in New Jersey

By Harold A. Lett

This article offers an analysis of the New Jersey law against discrimination in employment (the Hill law, Chapter 169, P. L. 1945). Passed without fanfare and operating smoothly, the law is slowly correcting conditions by emphasizing education and conciliation, although as a last resort it has plenty of "teeth" for enforcement

WHEN the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt acceded to the suggestions of Negro and white progressives of the country and created the Fair Employment Practices Commission, he initiated what may become the most significant and effective approach to the problem of race relations ever undertaken by government. It was the expression of a new, dynamic philosophy of governmental functions—the need to implement the fine ideals expressed in our federal and state constitutions by giving practical, day-to-day meaning to those high ideals.

The FEPC, however, did its pioneering work during the feverish period of the War, when the destiny of the world depended upon America's ability to utilize all of her resources in the "War of Production." What would happen during peace, particularly during the immediate, post-war period of let-down and reaction? Operating within the framework of this troublesome question were the proponents of state legislation for fair employment practice controls in a score of states, and there were also the opponents of such "class" legislation in those same states.

Among those states were New York and New Jersey, whose 1945 legislatures were debating the issue of fair employment controls. In New York, the opposition was highly organized and articulate; in New Jersey, it was subdued, and active only behind the scenes. In March 1945 the New York state legislature, to the accompaniment of nation-wide publicity and much debate, passed the first state law in the nation outlawing discrimination in employment. But one month later, without debate, acrimony or publicity, the New Jersey legislature passed the Hill Bill, which was almost identical with the Ives-Quinn measure in New York.

The almost simultaneous and comparable actions, but contrasting experiences of the two states, are a matter of such significance that a bit of historical background may be required.

The state of New York has usually been in the vanguard of liberal racial attitudes. As the port of entry for millions of immigrants for generations, New York has had to formulate a creed and a working plan, in its own interest, that would minimize intergroup tensions and conflict. Its polygot population has provided America's severest test of the democratic principle, and it has had to work diligently at the task of making democracy real and meaningful to all its people. Its position on the issue of human slavery was unequivocal and the state has been forthright and courageous in blazing new paths toward human freedom, in so far as practical, partisan politics has permitted.

The history of New Jersey, on the other hand, has shown much greater influence of southern traditions and mores. New Jersey was a slave-holding state, even after the year 1850, when every other state north of the Mason-Dixon line had outlawed the practice. During the period of Reconstruction, New Jersey was so disturbed by the northward migration of freedmen that for a period of seven years its legislature made annual appropriations toward subsidization of the colonization program in Liberia. Not until 1875 was the franchise granted to Negro citizens in the state.

Southern Patterns

Even today, a large section of New Jersey adheres faithfully to the southern bi-racial pattern. Draw an imaginary line across the "waist" of the state and you have a state Mason-Dixon line. Below this imaginary boundary is the state capital, Trenton, and ten of the twenty-one counties in the commonwealth. In these ten counties reside 25% of the state's population, and 41% of the total Negro population. Although the quarter of a million Negro citizens represent 5.4% of the state's population, they constitute 8.8% of the residents of these southern counties though but 4.4% of the population in the northern, industrial counties.

In New Jersey's "South," industry is concentrated in a very few centers such as the Trenton and Camden areas, while, in a general sense, agriculture and food processing have followed the pattern of the agrarian economy which characterizes our national "South." Here, too, has been the almost universal picture of racial separation in residential areas, in occupational outlets for Negro workers, in use of res-

MEMBERS N. J. "FEPC" *commision pictured here are Myra Blakeslee, Joseph Bustard (center), director, and Harold Lett.*

taurants, taverns and other public facilities, and in the wide-spread policy of elementary school segregation. A recent survey conducted by Miss Noma Jensen of the NAACP national staff, disclosed that in a study of 58 communities of the state, various forms of racial segregation were being practiced in the elementary grades in at least 23 of these towns. Thus, New Jersey can be pictured as a small working model of the nation in respect to its total economy and its racial patterns.

One significant exception can now be made. As late as 1945, the state capital, Trenton, could be compared in almost every detail to the national capital, Washington. Schools were segregated, public facilities discriminated against Negroes in open and flagrant violations of the state's civil rights laws, Negro workers in state offices were few and confined to menial tasks, with some half-dozen exceptions, and the municipal government was coldly indifferent to the welfare of its Negro citizens. The progressive program of the Trenton Committee for Unity, organized through the joint efforts of an Irish-Catholic newspaper owner-editor, a Jewish jurist, and a Protestant churchman, and implemented by the full-time services of a Smith graduate and ex-Junior Leaguer, led to undreamed of changes in the local pattern, even to the complete elimination of the segregated school set-up.

It was upon such a stage and before such a backdrop that New Jersey's anti-discrimination bill was presented by the lone Negro Assemblyman, Dr. J. Otto Hill, who was a member of the Essex county delegation. Republican Governor Walter E. Edge, now voluntarily retired to private life, favored passage of the bill and assisted actively in the mobilization of support. His was a sincere recognition of the commitments made by the Republican Party in the formation of its national platform. It should be said that a second FEPC bill had been presented by a member of the Democratic minority in the assembly, but he later recalled his bill and marshalled Democratic support behind the Republican administration measure.

Progressive forces in the state rallied to the support of the measure in anticipation of an organized opposition which never materialized openly. Toward the latter part of the legislative session, public hearings were scheduled and the assembly chambers were packed with FEPC adherents with myriads of suggestions designed to strengthen the bill, but they actually jeopardized its passage by delaying assembly action until near adjournment time. This threat was averted by speedy organization and coordination of activities and interests of all proponents. Not one voice was raised in open opposition to the measure, and it cleared both houses without debate or serious opposition. These little-known sidelights also were responsible for the widespread belief that the New Jersey statute "lacked teeth."

Ives-Quinn vs. Hill Law

Actually, there are but two minor differences between the New Jersey and the New York laws. Both bills class violation of the law as a misdemeanor. In New Jersey, a misdemeanor is an indictable offense requiring grand jury action before prosecution. This is a feature of the state's basic legal structure which does not apply in New York, and is not a defect or weakness in the anti-discrimination law per se. Another feature which differentiates the New York law from that in New Jersey is that the administrative authority in New York is vested in a five-man commission stemming from the executive department while in New Jersey, where all such commissions have been allocated to departments having cabinet representation, authority was assigned to a branch of the State Department of Education under the name of "The Division Against Discrimination." A discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of each system is without the limits of this article.

In New Jersey, therefore, the Commissioner of Education is the nominal head of the Division. His authority is vested in an assistant commissioner of education, Joseph L. Bustard, who is one of six officials in the department carrying this title. The others, respectively, are assigned to elementary, secondary, higher, and vocational education, and to the business administration of the department.

Under Commissioner Bustard are assistants in charge of compliance and of education, respectively, as authorized in the definition of the Division's functions in the text of the Act. The policy-making functions are not assigned to the board of education, as some may assume, but are vested in a non-salaried, nine-man council which is also directed by the Act to "Create such advisory agencies and conciliation councils, local, regional or state-aid, as in its judgment will aid in effectuating the purposes of this Act, and the council may empower them to study the problems of discrimination in *all* or *specific* (author's italics) instances of discrimination because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry . . . and to foster through community effort or otherwise good will, cooperation and conciliation . . . and make recommendations to the council for development of policies and procedures in general and in specific instances and for programs of formal and informal education which the council may recommend to the appropriate state agency."

Any analysis of the effectiveness of this type of legislation must of necessity include all facets of the problem the law is intended to correct. As in the New York act, New Jersey softens the enforcement provisions of the bill by requiring certain paralleling educational activities and reasonable efforts to adjust difficulties through interpretation. conciliation and persuasion. There is little opportunity, under the law, and no inclination on the part of its administrators, to embark upon a course of bureaucratic, hard-boiled display of strong-arm tactics. The problem of employment discrimination grows mainly out of a morass of tradition, ignorance, and fear. It is the studied practice of exploiting these emotional factors which must and can be eliminated by legal force. The emotional factors, however, will not yield to legal authority alone; education and information must be the law's constant hand-maidens.

Within this framework, therefore, employment practices are considered to be unlawful when, because of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry:

An employer discriminates: in hiring, upgrading, in terms, conditions or privileges of employment, or in discharging an employee;

A labor union discriminates against applicants for membership or its members, or against an employer or employee;

An employment agency or employer discriminates in registering or referring to jobs, or in making inquiries, advertising or circulating statements which disclose the race, creed, color or national origin of an applicant, or imposes any limitations upon such person because of his ancestry;

An employer *or any other person*, resists the employment of such person or aids, abets, incites, compels or attempts to incite or compel the doing of a discriminatory act;

Anyone, employer, labor union, or other person discriminates against a person because he has filed a complaint, testified or otherwise opposed any act forbidden by this law.

As to the question, "Does the Law have teeth?" Section 25 of the Act, which is the enforcement provision, reads as follows:

(*Continued on page* 188)

On the Stage
Social Significance
The Stage
Teaches Democracy

Singing in the Streets

By John Lovell, Jr.

The stage is one of the great instruments of mass entertainment and education and in recent years both playwrights and actors have shown an increasing inclination to make it a more effective weapon in the fight for democracy. This article, the first in a series, deals with the social significance of the new musical Street Scene. Kurt Weill wrote the music and Langston Hughes' the lyrics

WE all, like Walt Whitman, hear America singing especially in the streets. The songs are today sombre and tawdry; tomorrow giddy and magnificent; next day something else. They are the natural expression of workers, haters, cheaters in fine clothes, beggers, and slaves "with swords in their hands."

Democracy sings very loudly, and very often off key. The founding fathers never intended America to come to what it is today: crowded cities, indigestible masses, hating and hated minorities that more than make up a majority, the few packing the many into slums and alleys and having to pay for the resultant disease and crime and political dislocations in the coin of depressions, wars, and (most prodigally) poll-tax Congressmen.

The most resounding note in the songs of America's streets is variety, a variety corresponding to the variety of the people. At certain Amerind festivals, the whole business is topped off by a singing ceremony when, at a given signal, each person rises at his place and sings the special song of his heart, blissfully unaware of the hundreds of heartsongs that fill the air about him. So, often, in the streets of our country the self-appointed representatives of "races" and classes and religions and groups for saving the world (Los Angeles papers please copy) each sings his little song. The whole American song is forgotten.

Nevertheless it is wonderful when artists endeavor to preserve in a significant and memorable way the singing in America's streets. Such a thing happened when it was decided to revive a sociological play of the last generation as a musical. The play was *Street Scene,* born originally January 9, 1929, and achieving at that time an age of 601 performances. The author was Elmer Rice, and he is author of the book of the present revival. To write the music—that is, to capture the singing—is Kurt Weill. To put the words to the music—that is, to transmute the language of the streets to the stage—is Langston Hughes.

MEN RESPONSIBLE *for the success of* STREET SCENE *are Elmer Rice (left), who wrote the book, and Kurt Weill, who wrote the music.*

It was originally intended that this play would be a musical in the very modern sense, meaning a musical comedy. But the collaborators at length decided that they were dealing with material of great significance; so plans were changed to fit a "musical drama." Some have called the present *Street Scene* an American opera. Naming the style of the production is not nearly so important as noting the purposes of the collaborators; to take a drama of the crowded streets of New York and sharpen and heighten it with songs, lyrics, dancings, and a musical atmosphere. Think of the possibilities of that for important plays that have died and important dramatic ideas yet unborn.

Mr. Weill says he found these sidewalks of New York full of music—"music of passion, of love and hate, of humor and melancholy." Though he had previously ventured into social drama with *Three Penny Opera,* and had written a raft of musical plays, he selects *Street Scene* as the favorite among his own works because of its lasting elements.

Street Scene points up the varied reactions of various special groups in America without prejudice and with full appreciation of their membership in an ancient, colorful society. You can guess the groups from the last names: Kaplan, Fiorentino, Davis, Olsen, Jones, Maurrant, Buchanan, Sankey, Hildebrand, McGann, Easter, and Murphy. Twenty-three of these people live in a single New York tenement house.

Negro Characters

In the original play, there were no Negroes in the tenement community; in the modern musical drama, there are three. They add to the spectrum by the color of their skins, as the others do by the shape of their noses, the incorrigibility of their accents, the twang of their voices, the bitternesses and bittersweet humors they have inherited from their pasts.

The primary result of the play, however, it to show, very vividly, that the particular hammer under which all these people live daily, molds them into characters a great deal more alike than different. Thus democracy is shown in the fruitful sharing of ordinary, everyday experiences of pleasure, pain, and struggle, which foolish discriminations try to prevent.

The Negro characters are not dragged in by the ears; they are a natural part of the play's people. One is the janitor for the place, and lives downstairs. One is the janitor's daughter. A third is one of the neighbors passing by. And if anyone is inclined to accuse the collaborators of placing the Negro, as janitor, in a menial position, he should remember that regal and absolute monarch of the New York apartment building, sometimes known as the superintendent.

The janitor's role is sung by Creighton Thompson, who has been singled out by many of the musical and dramatic reviewers of the play for his "fine singing." Olin Downes said of him in the New York *Times*: "But we'd like to see many singing actors inside or outside of opera houses who would do a more perfect job . . ."

Near the beginning of the first act, and thrillingly again in other parts of the play, Creighton Thompson, as Henry Davis, sings a song entitled "I Got a Marble and a Star." It is a well-written song, with an exciting minor twist and lyrics that remind you of Langston Hughes's "Life to me ain't been no crystal stair." Thompson sings this song with a mixture of pathos and fire which brings the audience immediately to its knees and gives the drama a glowing start.

It should be repeatedly emphasized that people do not come into such a role and show-stopping success as this by accident. Thompson is a top-grade artist. He started singing as a choirboy in the St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Chicago, along with Charles Cecil Cohen, a professor of music at Howard university. After two years of believing that he was destined for the priesthood, he turned to his voice for a living.

At nineteen he was called to New York by the wife of that eminent showman, George Walker. He did two seasons on the Orpheum and Keith circuits. He was encouraged in his singing career by his brother, James DeKoven Thompson, composer of such songs as "If I Forget" and "Dear Lord Remember Me."

JUANITA HALL *(left), as one of the passers-by of the neighborhood, contributes a "most unusual voice among many distinctive voices."*

AT A REHEARSAL *of* STREET SCENE *are Maurice Abravanel (at piano), Langston Hughes, Anne Jeffreys, Dwight Deere Wiman, and Richard Manning.* **CREIGHTON THOMPSON** *(right) was chosen by the producers to take a strategic singing role in the play.*

In a few years Creighton Thompson decided he would master a related field, the field of acting. He joined the famous Lefayette Stock Company, acting with such stars as Abbie Mitchell. Georgia Burke, Edna Thomas, Charles Gilpin, Andrew Bishop, J. Laurence Griner, and Hilda Offley, who was to become his wife. He was starred and featured in those truly sensational productions of *Within the Law* and *Paid in Full*, replacing Gilpin in the lead role of the latter show.

A little later he joined James Reese Europe's band and was soloist with Noble Sissle. He sang at the Manhattan Opera House in New York and was a headline performer over the country, finding a particular welcome in St. Louis and Boston.

On the crest of a great wave of popularity, Thompson was swept to Europe just after the First World War. He sang in every major European capital—London, Paris, Berlin, and Copenhagen; Budapest, Vienna, Prague, Athens and Helsinki. He sang American popular songs; he sang with especial emphasis Negro spirituals; and at the request of the people, he sang the colorful home songs of the Frenchman, the German, the Englishman, the Hungarian, and the Finn.

He was so important in the Germany of the rising Hitler that he had to be suppressed by the Storm Troopers. By orders of their high command he was complimentarily threatened and removed from the country. He found refuge and a new popularity in Paris, and then in southern France.

He has sung in Liberia, and while there was in touch with Ambassador Lester Walton who was manager of the Lafayette Theatre back in the days when Thompson was one of its players. He also went to Bombay, India, to ful-

fill a six months contract at the Taj Mahal Hotel. He was so well liked that he stayed for three years.

Back in America, in the thick of the gathering war, he did one or two concerts, but found the demand for his voice temporarily on the wane. He did not hesitate to enter the war picture where he thought he could do the most good. He went into the Merchant Marine, stayed for five years, and twice experienced the indescribable thrill of being torpedoed.

Back in New York last year, he won the role of the preacher in *St. Louis Woman*. He says he likes best a role which provides for singing and acting.

Strategic Singing Role

Thompson's choice by the producers of *Street Scene* in a strategic singing role of the play calls attention to one important fact of the present American stage. A few years ago Negro artists were clamoring for recognition and admission to major plays. Today they are highly desired and "marketable." But in the great spirit of competition now pervading the American theatre, because of an abundance of talent, every chosen artist is unquestionably superior. Thompson was chosen for his *St. Louis Woman* role after 900 auditions; the cast of *Street Scene* were chosen after 5,000 auditions.

This choice of auditioning from among hundreds and thousands of talented persons, from all sections and groups, is most spectacular in the case of Helen Joselle Olga Ferguson, *Street Scene's* 14-year-old brown beauty. She plays the part of Grace Davis, the daughter of Henry Davis (Creighton Thompson), and more sparkingly, one of the neighborhood children.

As you might suppose, there are all kinds of children in this neighborhood. They range in age from one just born to the 18-year-old Mae Jones (Sheila Bond), who loves and drinks with the ardor of the jazz age, and who, with Dick McGann (Danny Daniels), leads the whole cast in a scintillating dance entitled "Moon-Faced, Starry-Eyed." In this number, incidentally, according to Ward Morehouse of the New York *Sun*, the Langston Hughes lyrics are at their best.

In the middle group of children, Grace (Helen) is a shiny star. She helps to commiserate the children upstairs when it turns out that they and their family are to be bodily set in the street on the day of the graduation of one of the girls; the commiseration takes the form, chiefly, of a wonderful production number, "Wrapped in a Ribbon and Tied in a Bow." The least that can be said of Helen in this number is that if she were not here, she would be greatly missed.

Helen was born in Newark, New Jersey, but she has lived in New York City most of her life. She attended school at the Music and Art high school and the Professional Children's school, where she still goes.

She has been singing since her earliest moments, but seriously since she was eight. Her first public appearance was then, when she sang "Lord Have Mercy" on an Easter program at the Good Will Baptist church. At ten, she did a recital in the First Community Baptist church, including such numbers as Schubert's "Ave Maria," "Didn't It Rain?" and "Who'll Buy My Lavender?"

To the inspiration of natural singing has been added a regimen of discipline. Helen has been taking strict lessons for several years. Among her teachers have been Corinne Steele and Henry Barron. Her present teacher is Mme. D'Este.

She has won contests in Police Athletic League competition. She has appeared on all-star night at Madison Square Garden. She won a $50 bond singing in an *I Am An American Day* Contest on Central Park Mall. She has done recitals for the YWCA.

When you think of Helen in *Street Scene*, you must remember that a "Negro girl singer" was not and is not an indispensable requirement of the drama. Helen won her place by the merit of an outstanding voice and personality, not through having a special niche sculpted into the play. In auditioning for this show, she sang "My Johann" and "The Laughing Song."

Everyone at home encouraged Helen in her remarkable career. Her mother is dead, but her grandmother, Mrs. Beulah Ferguson—who used to sing in the choir at Charleston, S.C.—is bringing her up with great care and style. Her father is a painter by trade; and through him, also, she has a musical connection, for when he was young, he played the tuba.

Helen Acts and Dances

Besides singing, Helen's present role calls for acting and dancing. She says she does not know just when she started acting, but she does recall that she has acted innumerable times in church and school plays, most recently (before *Street Scene*) having the part of a judge who sentenced people. Dancing—she just picked that up. Of the three, she likes singing the best.

Helen went to the Juilliard school in the summer of 1945. For six weeks she took theory classes. Some day she would like to take the regular course at Juilliard.

The five weeks of rehearsal for *Street Scene* were for her a great lark. She says it was more fun than work; especially when the directors kept changing the routines, and she could expect something new almost every day. She and the other children helped too: when the chorus routines were being worked out, all the children were asked to put in their original stuff to see how it looked.

She plans definitely to make the stage her career. Right now, her idols of the stage are Lily Pons, Jan Peerce, Paul Robeson, and Bill Robinson.

As one of the passersby of the neighborhood, Juanita Hall contributed a most unusual voice among many distinctive voices. Miss Hall is a trouper of considerable standing, having held roles ranging from moderate to first importance in such plays as *Showboat, The Green Pastures, Stevedore, The Pirate* (with Lunt and Fontanne), *Sing Out, Sweet Land, Deep Are the Roots* (in summer theatre), and *St. Louis Woman*.

She went on the stage immediately after coming out of school, at Bordentown, N. J. She is a New Jerseyan by birth, but she calls New York home. Her musical education came from Juilliard. She was taught to act by private teachers and in a manner many directors believe is the most effective: by working with established artists and producers in major productions.

For herself, Miss Hall prefers straight drama, but believes that the musical play is highly important. Her favorite role was the housekeeper in *The Secret Room*, a Moss Hart production of 1944, starring Frances Dee. This role, incidentally, was a kind of high mark in point of dignity and importance for a Negro artist in the American theatre.

With all these wonderful things, *Street Scene* is not an unalloyed success. Richard Watts, Jr., in the New York *Post* calls it an "adventurous endeavor without the creative life necessary for complete success." Howard Barnes of the New York *Herald-Tribune* remarks that it is not quite up to *Porgy and Bess*.

In trying to find the reason why it lacks the final knockout punch of several other current Broadway dramas, the observer is compelled to examine, among other things, one factor. Although the actors and singers of *Street Scene* are, taken singly, artists of power, and often of brilliance, they do not come together as a social and artistic unity after the manner of the casts of *Call Me Mister* and *Finian's Rainbow*.

There is, of course, considerable difference of opinion on the subject of

(Continued on page 188)

DELEGATES, NAACP YOUTH LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Scurlock

Reading from left to right, top down, Senator Joseph Ball of Minnesota tells delegates from Illinois and Indiana, accompanied by Leslie Perry, that he favors the abolition of the poll tax, but opposes invoking cloture in the Senate. He favors curbs on labor but is opposed to federal aid to the school lunch program. Leaving Senator Ball, the delegation meets with the speaker of the House, Joseph Martin of Massachusetts. Speaker Martin expressed attitudes similar to those of Senator Ball on most social legislation. He felt that the new FEPC bill would be brought up in the House within the next three months. Gael Sullivan, executive director of the Democratic National Committee, greets delegates from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Michigan, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina at committee headquarters in Washington's Mayflower hotel. The delegates frustrated an attempt to make them ride the hotel freight elevator in their visit to Sullivan's office..

Mrs. Ruby Hurley, NAACP youth secretary, who directed conference, gives further instruction to the group as other leaders look on. From left to right they are Mrs. Kathryn Schyver, former executive secretary of the National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax who gave the delegates pointers on lobbying techniques; Leslie Perry, administrative assistant, Washington bureau, who discussed how Congress functions; George L-P. Weaver, executive director, CIO Committee to Abolish Discrimination. who described lobbyists at work; and Herwald Price, delegate from Dillard university, who was chairman of the session. Sitting in the background is Douglas Rosenbaum, assistant to Dr. McGraw of NHA. Delegates at Howard university listen with rapt attention to an explangtion of the manner in which Congress works. At 9:15 A.M., Friday, April 11, delegates assembled on the steps of the Supreme Court building to receive final instructions and assignments for visits to several of the key legislators and party leaders. Represented here are twenty states, sixty-five cities, forty-three youth councils, fourteen college chapters, five branches, and five other organizations. The majority of the young people were between the ages of fifteen and twenty-one years.

STAR OF "FINIAN'S RAINB

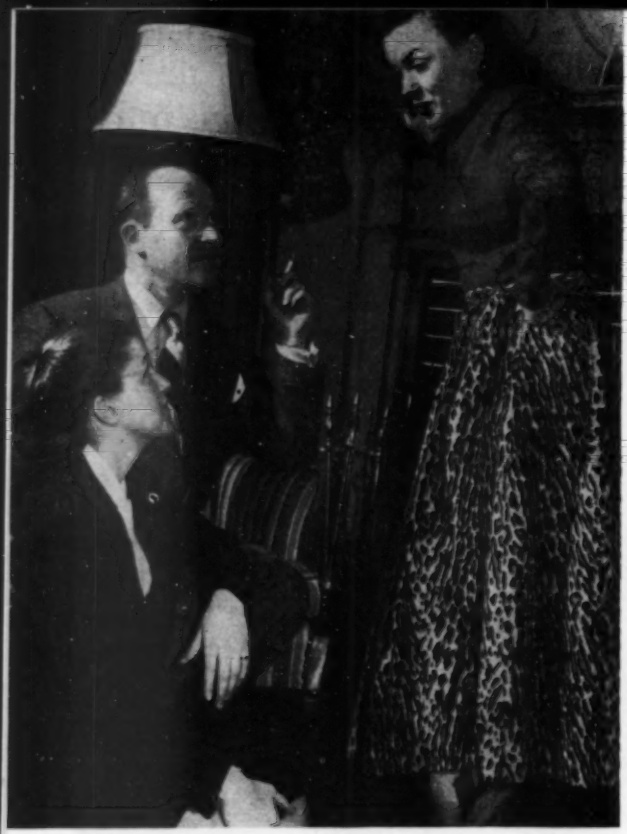
. . . At Home Wi

ELLA LOGAN is the tiny Scotch star—she is four-feet-eleven and weighs only 98 pounds—of Broadway's smash musical, *Finian's Rainbow,* an entertaining compound of social satire and elfish Irish fantasy. Miss Logan feels very strongly about the democratic message of the piece and has some very pronounced ideas on American racism and Negrophobia. She thinks American emphasis on race and color superstition tommy-rot.

One of the great ladies of the entertainment world, Miss Logan is known to millions on every continent for her varied accomplishments as singer, actress, and personality. To record collectors the world over, she is esteemed either for her rendition of the blues, or for her original manner in chanting a Scotch or Irish or American ballad in a sweet folk-song style and then suddenly exploding into a jazz interpretation of it that brings the house down.

Throughout pre-war Europe, Miss Logan was known as "The

Photos by



ELLA AND HER HUSBAND, *Fred F. Finklehoffe, listen while their daughter talks about school. Seventeen-year-old Annabella is a student at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts where she is studying fencing, ballet, drama and diction.*

THREE MEMBERS *of the cast of* Finian's Rainbow *laugh at one of Ella's anecdotes, of which she has quite a repertory. Left, Dolores Martin, featured singer; seated on floor, Frank Neal, dancer. Mr. Neal is also a painter and he recently received the Alford award at Atlanta university for his oil paintings, "Oppression." Right, Maude Simmons, featured singer.*

FINIAN'S RAINBOW, *Miss Logan explains ... is not only a play with a message, but a ... preaches. Negroes are integral parts of the ... types. Plays like this point, Miss Logan ... the ...*

W" ENTERTAINS FRIENDS

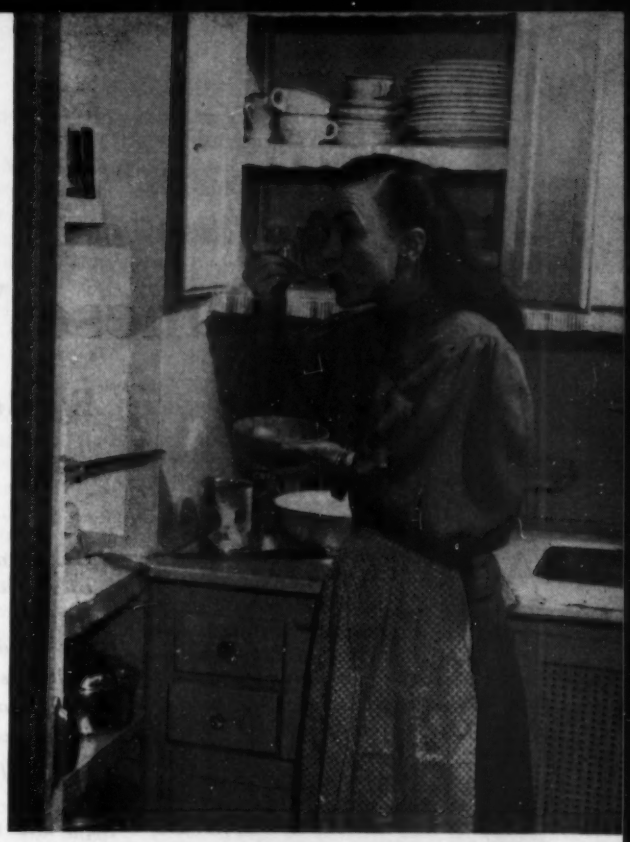
th Ella Logan

Aberdeen Atom" or, where the press was more conservative, "The Glasgow Grenade." Indeed, it was in Glasgow, her home town, where she began entertaining at the age of three for a private audience consisting of her parents and nine brothers and sisters. To the men and women who fought in the countries of the ETO, she is known as the "Sweetheart of the GIs." She always refused to sing to segregated soldier-audiences.

Her first post-war job was as singing star at Bill Miller's famous Riviera across the George Washington bridge from Manhattan. Her salary was $3,500 a week for four weeks, with options. To Broadway theatre-goers, Ella will always be vivid in their memories for her superb performances in *Calling All Stars,* George White's *Scandals,* Olsen and Johnson's *Sons O' Fun,* and in the variety hit, *Showtime.*

Miss Logan is married to Fred F. Finklehoffe, co-author and producer of the movie version of the best-seller, *The Egg and I,* for International Pictures.

n Ransom



COOKING *is great fun, says Ella. Just in from a matinee, Miss Logan has donned an apron and is now whipping up one of her favorite dishes before she returns to the theatre for the night performance. She likes to keep house, too.*

nes W. Ivy, managing editor of THE CRISIS, *hich puts into practice the very message it th artists and performers, and not as stereo- a much brighter future for the Negro on stage.*

FAR FROM LEPRECHAUNS *and Missitucky, Miss Logan catches up on her reading. An avid reader, she devours magazines, novels, and an occasional heavy book. She is very punctilious about keeping her appointments and to make sure that she won't forget she pins them to her lampshade. Miss Logan likes to relax around the house in this leopard-skin skirt.*

The Sudanese Want Independence

By George Padmore

Here is a short historical sketch of Anglo-Egyptian treaty negotiations and the reactions of the Sudanese nationalists to Britain's Labor Government attempt to double-cross them. It is the case of Palestine being repeated in Africa

ARISING out of the treaty negotiations between Great Britain and Egypt, a delegation representing the Umma (People's) party and the Sudan Independence Front, met in Britain in December 1946 and was joined by Sir Sayed Abdel Raham, son of the famous Mahdi. Their purpose in coming to Britain was to put before the British public the case of the Sudanese people for independence.

In any interview, Mr. Abdulla Bey Khalil, general-secretary of Umma, who holds the rank of brigadier-general in the Sudan Defence Force, explained to me very fully the Sudanese claims. When I called upon Mr. Khalil and his colleagues, Mr. Yaagoub Osman, a 35-year-old lawyer and editor of *El Nile*, leading nationalist newspaper in the Sudan, and Mr. Mhmd. Mahgoub, who resigned his judgeship in protest against present events, I found them busily engaged in drafting a manifesto to be presented to the foreign secretary of state, Mr. Ernest Bevin. For Mr. Bevin was the one who discussed the future of the Sudan with the Egyptian prime minister, Sidky Pasha, when he came specially to London in December to try to get the question of the Anglo-Egyptian treaty settled.

"We are here to protest against any attempt to make a settlement at the expense of the Sudanese people," said Mr. Khalil. "It is necessary for the British people to be vigilant in the cause of right and justice for the Sudanese people. Already there is growing distrust and suspicion among large sections of Sudanese because of our exclusion from the talks taking place between the representatives of the British and Egyptian governments."

History of Sudanese Nationalism

"Since most people are unfamiliar with the history of Sudanese nationalism, will you please give me a brief outline of the Umma movement?" I asked Mr. Khalil. "Surely," he replied.

"The Umma party was formed in 1945, and now has a membership of over 500,000, drawn from the popular masses, who have rallied to its appeal on a program of 'Sudan for the Sudanese.' The Umma party has drawn to its banner many members even of the more primitive Nilotic tribes of the southern Nile valley. Democratically based, the Party has about ninety regional committees, directed by a general council of sixty elected members. Its supreme body is the Executive Council of fourteen, which carries out the broad policy agreed upon by the General Council. The Party has its own newspaper, entitled *Umma*, and also enjoys the support of another daily, *El Nil*."

YAGOUB OSMAN, *representative of the Umma party in London, is the intelligent and progressively-minded editor of the Sudanese daily,* EL-NIL. *This paper, though not an organ of the Umma party, strongly supports the party cause. Mr. Osman was educated at Gordon college, Khartoum, went also to a secondary school in Egypt, and came to England to study law at Leeds university. He is a thoughtful young man much concerned with the political and social future of his country as an independent state.*

"That is a good summary. Now will you please review for me briefly the history of your country in relations to Britain and Egypt?" I requested.

"The Egyptians have always entertained an imperialistic attitude towards our country," declared Mr. Khalil. "It was in 1820 that Mohammed Ali, Turkish ruler of Egypt, acting in Turkish interest, invaded us in order to exploit our natural riches and sell our youth into slavery and bondage. The response to the call of the Islam leaders who formed the pioneers to his invading army paved the way to an easy victory for them. From that time until our liberation by the Mahdi, the Turkish flag flew over the Sudan, and under its shadow flourished one of the most oppressive, inhuman and corrupt regimes in the whole history of mankind.

"But in 1885 we regained our freedom, and for fourteen years we were completely independent, acknowledging no master except our own rulers. These fourteen years of freedom erased any claims based on the six years of misrule that had gone before."

Continuing his recital of the history of the Sudan, Mr. Khalil told how in 1898 the Sudan was invaded for a second time. "But on this occasion, the invading forces were not Turkish troops, but a joint force made up of British and Egyptians. The present existing administrative rights of the two powers in the Sudan are based on this conquest. Neither Britain nor Egypt had any right prior to 1898. For reasons concerned with the entry of

M. A. MAHGOUB *is secretary and representative of the Sudan Independence Front in London. Born in 1908, he graduated from the school of engineering, Gordon college, Khartoum, in 1929. Then followed two years of post-graduate work in architecture, on the strength of which Mr. Mahgoub took up the post of architectural foreman of works and draughtsman until December, 1935. During that period he studied literature and contributed to the Arabic press as a free-lance journalist. In 1936 he joined the Khartoum school of law and took his degree in 1938. From 1938 to October 28, 1946, he served as judge, resigning from his judicial position to join the national movement. Mr. Mahgoub has published three books in Arabic:* THE INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENT IN THE SUDAN, LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE SUDAN, *and* DEATH OF A WORLD, *an autobiography of his generation from 1924 to 1938.*

another power, France, into the Sudan, an attempt was made to picture the 'Reconquest' as the suppression of a rebellion in some outlying Egyptian provinces, but this pretension was merely a political maneuver. Lord Cromer was the first to recognize this, when in 1901 he stated in a speech at Khartoum that 'both the Egyptians and the British are strangers. . . . We aim at a true Sudanese parliamentary representation, and it is possible for such to be created.'

"At no time since the second conquest has Great Britain claimed the Sudan as part of the British Empire; neither has Egypt treated our country as though it were a part of the Kingdom of Egypt. On the contrary, the British have consistently rejected the suggestion that the Sudan should be treated in the same way as her dependencies in the colonial empire, and the Egyptian government, on their part, have gone so far as to plead before the Mixed Courts in Egypt that the Sudan government was constitutionally an autonomous government absolutely separate from the Egyptian government. The court upheld this plea and found that by the 1898 agreements a new state was established in the Sudan district from and independent of Egypt.

"It is clear therefore," Mr. Khalil explained, "that from the beginning of the Condominium Rule, the Sudan has been treated as a separate and detached territory over which the two Condominium Powers separately hold administrative rights not prejudicing the Sudan's sovereignty."

War Record

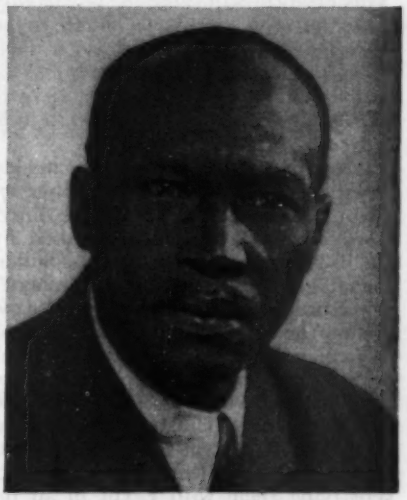
Referring to the war record of the Sudanese, Mr. Khalil emphasized that Egypt played no part in her own defence. It was Sudanese troops who went north and fought side by side with British and other Dominion forces in inflicting defeat upon the Italians and Rommel's *Afrika Korps*. "Let me quote to you what the Governor-General said to the Sudanese people in his message on Victory Day:

" 'The Sudan can look back with pride on the part she has played in this war. She has acted throughout with the courage, orderliness and obedience which Sir Stewart Symes called for in 1940. She has never doubted the path to victory. In 1940 her forces stood valiantly, with their British and Indian comrades, in the path of the invader and then pressed forward with them to share in the glorious victories in Abyssinia and in North Africa. Always they have brought honor to the Sudan by their valor and their discipline. At home the Sudan assisted in the vital task of guarding the African lines of communication and gave unswerving support to the military forces who used her soil. Her citizens made many generous contributions to the effort of war. Her cultivators worked with faithful persistence. Her merchants have loyally obeyed the demands made upon them. Her officials have shouldered without complaint new and heavy burdens. Her war-time economy has won praise outside the borders of the Sudan. This is indeed a proud record and let us remember it with full hearts.' "

British Declaration of No Change

Following the statements which were made in the Egyptian press in connection with the treaty negotiations between Egypt and Britain and the fears expressed by certain British members of Parliament, Mr. Bevin made a declaration in the House of Commons on March 26, 1947, in which he gave assurance that "no change should be made in the status of the Sudan as a result of treaty revision until the Sudan has been consulted through constitutional channels." Despite this announcement, the Sudanese have reason to suspect that the Labor government may sacrifice them in order to appease the Pashas as a *quid pro quo* for military concessions to the British Empire. The hush-hush atmosphere surrounding the negotiations, from which the Sudanese were excluded, together with the interpretation given by Sidky Pasha to the Protocol signed between himself and Mr. Bevin a few weeks earlier only served to underline Sudanese suspicion and distrust.

The text of the draft Protocol declares that "The policy which the High Contracting Parties undertake to follow in the Sudan (within the framework of the unity between Sudan and Egypt under the common Crown of Egypt) will have for its essential objectives to assure the well-being of the Sudanese, the development of their interests and their active preparation for self-government and consequently the exercise of the right to choose the future status of the Sudan. Until the High Contract-



BRIGADIER ABDULLA BEY KHALIL, *secretary-general of the Umma (People's) party, is 54 years old, and a familiar and much-respected figure in the public life of the Sudan. The greater part of his life has been spent in the service of his country, and he was one of the founders of the Umma party in 1945. Mr. Khalil studied at the engineering section of Gordon college and at the military school in Khartoum before joining the Egyptian Army in 1910. He served in the Gallipoli campaign, and when the Egyptian Army was evacuated from the Sudan in 1924, he transferred to the Sudan Defence Force. He was serving as a colonel on the staff of the famous Sudan Camel Corps when war broke out in 1939, and was appointed to the Kaid's headquarters. He retired from the service in 1944, and was appointed a member of the Advisory Council for the northern Sudan, from which he resigned as a protest against the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations over the Sudan. Mr. Khalil is a charming, gentlemanly person, wise and earnest, and he is seeking the best means of securing his people's freedom.*

ing Parties can in full common agreement realize this latter objective after consultation with the Sudanese, the Agreement of 1899 will continue and Article 11 of the Treaty of 1936 together with its annex and paragraphs 14 to 16 of the Agreed Minute annexed to the same Treaty will remain in force notwithstanding the first Article of the present Treaty."

It was on the basis of this document that King Farouk announced to the Egyptian Parliament that soon he will be able to declare himself king over the Sudan. And Sidky Pasha's interpretation is that "the Protocol puts an end to the policy adopted hitherto in the Sudan by the British in order to ensure for themselves a part of the sovereignty over it. They used to call the Sudan a 'Condominium,' which implies the existence of partnership. This policy has created a false idea about Egypt's right in the Sudan among representatives of foreign powers and among authorities in international law. This Protocol will cause *the sovereignty of Egypt alone over the Sudan* to be regarded by all foreign powers as an accomplished fact, *a fact which may in future have great importance in case any question about the Sudan is submitted to the United Nations.*"

According to the Egyptian weekly newspaper, *Rose El Yusef* (October 27, 1946), Sidky Pasha says that the objections to the Protocol "are caused by the provision as to preparing the Sudan for self-government. 'Self-government', in accordance with international law, is not the same as 'independence' or 'sovereignty'. He had long discussions with Mr. Bevin in London on this subject. Mr. Bevin was afraid lest the Sudanese should demand independence and, owing to Great Britain's previous undertakings to them, he could not accept tying them with Egypt in an indissoluble tie. Sidky pointed out that it was imaginable that they would one day ask for severance from Egypt. Even if this should take place, the Treaty is concluded only for a period of twenty years, after which each party will resume his liberty of action. Egypt will be ready to settle the question with the Sudan in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter. Mr. Bevin, however, after acknowledging the sovereignty of Egypt, wished to give assurance to the people of the Sudan about their future, so he insisted on the reference to the future status of the country. After a lot of discussion, the Egyptian side agreed on the text in the Protocol, which was approved by Mr. Bevin.

Effect of Protocol

"Sidky then goes on to explain the legal effect of the Protocol, and concludes that the future policy of the two Governments will be *subject to the principle of Egyptian* sovereignty; and therefore this policy cannot provide for *any arrangements which would be outside the limits of sovereignty or the framework of the unity of the two countries under one Crown. Therefore the right of separation from Egypt is denied, and the Sudanese will not have the right in future to cut the tie of Egyptian sovereignty over them.* Whatever explanation is given to the present Protocol, the sovereignty of Egypt over the Sudan cannot be removed unless by a clear declaration to be issued in [the] future by Egypt; and this could only take place as a result of a revolution in the Sudan; or of a separation by force; or by a voluntary surrender by Egypt. Briefly, by virtue of this Protocol, *the Sudanese will not have the right of separation from Egypt,* and it is not permissible to provide in this Protocol for the possibility of Egyptian surrender. Such a grave alteration could only take place after an official declaration by Egypt, transmitted first to the Sudanese people and afterwards to the United Nations."

While Mr. Bevin has not yet had an opportunity to give his interpretation of the Protocol, the Governor-General of the Sudan, acting on the instructions of the British prime minister, Mr. Attlee, issued a statement on November 7, 1946, which can be taken as an interpretation of the British government's reading of the Protocol. While not denying the claim made by Sidky Pasha that "this Protocol will cause the sovereignty of Egypt alone over the Sudan to be regarded by all foreign powers as an accomplished fact," the statement reaffirms the Foreign Minister's declaration of March 26 that the constitution and powers of the Sudanese government remain unaltered by the recent conversations.

This statement is no doubt intended to appease Sudanese fears and suspicions by assuring them that there would be no change in the status quo. At the same time the statement, by not denying Sidky's assertion of Egypt's titular sovereignty over the Sudan, leaves the door open for the consummation of the present negotiations between Britain and Egypt. If this proves to be the case, all the assurances previously given to the Sudanese that the only object of the British in the Sudan is to prepare them for independence is sheer humbug. For as Sidky has publicly stated, once sovereignty over the Sudan is conceded to the Egyptian Crown, the Sudanese will be able to achieve their independence only by revolutionary means.

Recognizing the untenable position into which they had been maneuvered, the Sudanese delegation in London categorically rejected the draft Protocol and demanded the immediate termination of the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium, and the restoration of the sovereign rights of the Sudanese people. As a free and independent people, the Sudanese will be quite prepared to enter into treaty relations with Britain, Egypt, Abyssinia, and their other neighbors in the Nile valley, for they realize that in an interdependent world they cannot live in isolation. But they object to being used as pawns in back-room bargaining between a reactionary and graft-ridden feudal class on the one hand, and a so-called Socialist government on the other, in order that Britain's imperial interests in the Middle East may be bolstered up and her life lines to the Indian Empire safeguarded.

British Foreign Office

Behind the whole affair can be discerned the skilful hand of the British Foreign Office and its political representatives in Cairo playing the old traditional game of divide and rule. Such is the cynicism of the British ruling class, who have no permanent friends or permanent enemies, but only permanent interests, that they are willing to sacrifice the very Sudanese who helped them defend their Empire when the Egyptian Pashas were flirting with the Axis Powers.

The Sudan situation as it is now shaping up bears a striking resemblance to the beginning of the Palestinian problem after the First World War, when as the result of the Balfour Declaration, a document as vaguely phrased as the Bevin-Sidky Protocol, led to what we are witnessing today, an undeclared war between the British and the Jews. It would be really tragic if eventually the British Labor Government, in order to impose upon the unwilling Sudanese people the rule of the rotten and corrupt Egyptian regime, will be driven to use British troops against the Sudanese. For one thing is certain. The Sudanese, who in 1885, united solidly to drive out their much-hated Egyptian oppressors, will not tamely suffer the re-imposition of the sovereignty of a class that so shamelessly and ruthlessly exploits the workers and the fellahin of Egypt.

NAACP CONFERENCE

Washington, D. C.

June 24-29

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

FINGERS POINT TO MILLIONS—*Twenty-four delegates from thirteen branches in the state of Tennessee met in the Martin hotel, Chattanooga, April 26, to reorganize the state conference of branches of the NAACP. Tennessee branches are in region three of the nationwide membership campaign, and are coordinated by Donald Jones, assistant fiield secretary from the national office in New York.*

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

BRANCHES TOPPING QUOTAS: The NAACP's make-it-a-million membership drive, according to reports from the directors of various regions, is now in full swing and it is expected that the Association will top the quota.

Reports from the various regions are all encouraging. In Tennessee, the branches are driving to recruit 33,600 members; in Cincinnati, the campaign aims to win 10,000 members; in Greensboro, N. C., the branch expects to add 1,350 members; in Philadelphia, the campaign goal has been set at 20,000; in Newark, the goal is 5,000; in San Francisco, the branch hopes to obtain more than 5,000 members; in Brooklyn, the goal is 10,000; and in Wichita, Kans., the goal is 2,000.

So great is the interest in the work of the Association that twelve new branches were chartered at the April 14 meeting of the national board of directors, as follows: Crystal River, Walton county, Oakland, Fla.; Martins Ferry, O.; Darby and Fredericktown, Pa.; Grant Parish, La.; San Angelo, Texas; Brooks county, Ga.; Oxford and Old Fort, N. C.; and Bridgeport, Texas. This brings the number of organizational units, including branches, youth councils, and college chapters, to 1,523.

According to a report from the branch department, George L-P Weaver, director of the CIO committee to abolish discrimination, has urged CIO locals in twenty-nine cities throughout the country to support the NAACP nationwide membership campaign.

Weaver explained in messages to the unions that "The NAACP—an organization with which we have been working very closely and on whose executive board president Philip Murray serves—is conducting a membership drive hoping to reach the goal of a million members this year." He went on to tell of the NAACP's activities in the field of civil rights, and he asked the unions to assist the Association in achieving its goal. The messages went to CIO locals in Jersey City, Newark and Trenton, N. J.; Rochester, N. Y.; Akron, Cincinnati, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown, O.; Portland, Ore.; Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pa.; Kansas City and Wichita, Kans.; Louisville, Ky.; Boston, Mass.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo.; Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco and San Diego, Calif.; Hartford, Conn.; Indianapolis and Evansville, Ind., and Des Moines, Iowa.

EDUCATION

SWEATT CASE: On May 12 special counsel Thurgood Marshall, heading a battery of NAACP attorneys, started the first round in the civil court of appeals at Austin, Texas, in the legal fight of Heman Marion Sweatt, Houston mail clerk, to secure admission to the University of Texas law school.

The NAACP brief is clearly an all-out attack on the very theory of jim-crow and, although the court action is designed to force the university to admit Sweatt to its law school, the brief attacks by implication every phase of the segregation pattern in the public life of the South. It exposes the separate-but-equal-facilities dogma as "judicial myth."

On May 16, after a four-day trial, Judge Roy Archer denied Sweatt's renewed court request for admission to the law school of the university. In making his ruling, he said that since the Texas constitution provides for separate schools for whites and Ne-

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE *of the Durham, N. C., branch, which has already brought in 829 members. The committee is headed by Burch Coley, Claude C. Cobb, and M. J. McNeil.*

groes, and since the Texas legislature has taken no steps to amend that portion of the state constitution, his decision was the same as the previous one. The NAACP plans, however, to appeal the case.

The NAACP action was filed in the local state court in Austin on May 16, 1946. In June of that year the lower court entered an order that the university, in denying admission to Sweatt in the absence of an equal but separate law school had denied Sweatt the equal protection of the law under the U. S. Constitution. The presiding judge, however, stayed for six months the operation of the decree, pending the establishment of a separate but equal school. On December 17, 1946, the state of Texas filed a motion alleging that a separate school hal been established and, on the basis of this motion, the court denied the writ of mandamus and an appeal was immediately taken to the civil court of appeals of Texas, on the grounds that insufficient proof had been presented that the state had actually established a separate but equal law school.

JOHNSON-HATFIELD CASE: The NAACP has appealed the decision of a Louisiana district judge who dismissed suits against the Louisiana State University. The Association's lawyers took the cases of Viola Johnson and Charles Hatfield, who are seeking by manda-

DELEGATES *present at the West Coast Regional Conference held in San Francisco, California, March 7-8, 1947.*

tory writ to obtain admission to the law school and the medical college, respectively, to the Court of Appeals, First Circuit, of the State of Louisiana.

The appeal petitions described the qualifications of Miss Johnson and Hatfield and stated that there is no medical college and law school within the state, other than those maintained by the state at Louisiana State University, where they can secure the required education.

The district judge, who had previously dismissed the suit, said the petitioners should have demanded that Southern university, the state institution for Negroes, establish medical and law schools. In the meantime, he said, the petitioners must pursue their studies outside the state under a scholarship-aid plan provided for by a Louisiana statute.

This is another in a series of cases which the NAACP is trying throughout the South in order to test the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment in regard to the duty of the state to afford graduates and professional school training for Negroes.

CONGRESSIONAL

OFFICIALS APPEAR BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES: Executive secretary Walter White testified in April before the President's Committee on Civil Rights. Mr. White, in his testimony, declared that the belief that the solution of the problems of segregation, discrimination, race violence, and the violation of the civil rights of minorities should be left to the states and to private enterprise was dangerously false and must be exploded. He added that it was a fallacy to believe that race hate and prejudice could not be eliminated from American life by law. The slow process of education helps too but the law is likewise an effective weapon. During the course of his testimony, Mr. White recommended immediate change in the anti-filibuster rule, and commented on the failure of Congress to pass an FEPC bill and to take up restrictive covenants in housing.

Special counsel Thurgood Marshall, testifying before the same committee, pointed out that actual protection of the civil rights of Americans has been thwarted by people who never intended all citizens of this country to have complete and equal citizenship rights. Negroes in the South, he said, have learned this bitter truth over a long period of years.

In April Clarence Mitchell, labor secretary, NAACP, testified before a sub-committee of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He informed the committee that some states are using federal funds in a manner "which actually promotes discrimination." He called for the restoration of funds to the USES, which have been slashed by the House Appropriations Committee. He also made an attack on the Inter-State Conference of Employment Security Agencies and charged that this group, from behind the scenes in cloak and dagger fashion, vigorously works against decent national standards on minority group matters.

Leslie Perry, of the Washington bureau, also testified before a Senate education sub-committee which was holding hearings on S-199 and S-472, bills to provide federal aid to elementary and secondary schools. Mr. Perry told the committee that educational conditions in the South for Negro children and teachers are intolerable and that school expenditures are but one index of the plight of Negro pupils in the South. Attention was called to the fact that Negro teachers are the victims of huge salary gouges, and that most southern states seem to have a settled policy to distribute funds in an unequal manner.

CHARTER-NIGHT SPEAKERS *of the Easton, Pa., branch pictured here are, left to right: Russell Schooley, city councilman; Dr. Leon A. Ransom, guest speaker; Earl Keyser, branch president; Rev. George Creitz, pastor First Evangelical Reformed church, Easton; and Bernard M. Goodman, assistant district attorney, Northampton county, Pa.*

BIRTHDAY PARTY—*Members of the group which attended the first annual birthday party of the South Bend, Indiana, youth council. Organized one year ago, the council now has 125 members.*

Park B. Harper

WINNERS IN RAFFLE *conducted by the Philadelphia, Pa., branch. Raffle was held to raise funds for the branch. Left to right: Mrs. Rosa Pitts, chairman raffle committee; Mrs. Edith Little Page, winner of car; Claude Edwards, winner of washing machine; Miss P. L. Kittrel, winner electric razor; and Mrs. Elizabeth K. Young, executive secretary Philadelphia branch.*

LEGAL

CLEMENCY AND PROTEST: The legal staff has submitted a petition for clemency to the War Department in behalf of James Young, former Army private, now serving a life term at hard labor for alleged rape of a native girl in the Philippines. Young was convicted by an army court in the Pacific theatre of operations on September 25, 1945. The petition points out that many errors of law were committed at the trial.

The Association protested against the barring of Paul Robeson from concert halls in Albany, N. Y., and Peoria, Ill. and placed its legal facilities at the disposal of the attorney of the world famous singer.

A protest was also registered against the execution of two Negroes, 14 and 15 respectively when they committed the crimes for which they were convicted, with the governor of Mississippi, asking him to commute their sentences. The record shows that these uneducated children had no understanding of the nature of the act they were committing and of the seriousness of the consequences.

The legal staff discloses that the ICC has ruled that the practice of the Southern Railway in reserving one table for Negroes in its dining car does not violate the Interstate Commerce Act. The commission agreed, however, that the refusal of a railway to seat a Negro passenger in a dining car when white passengers are occupying tables set aside for Negroes does come under the heading of "undue and unreasonable prejudice and disadvantage" according to the Interstate Commerce Act.

A minority opinion held that a ruling in a prior case established the invalidity of segregation because of race in interstate travel on a carrier subject to the authority of the Interstate Commerce Act. The NAACP is now studying the possibilities of appealing the decision, which arose out of the case of *Mays v. Southern Railway Co.* The railroad had refused to seat Dr. Benjamin Mays of Morehouse College in one of its dining cars.

Taking advantage of a new ruling by the U. S. Attorney General, which for the first time makes it possible to protest a dishonorable discharge from the armed services, the NAACP legal staff has petitioned for a change in the type of discharge given to Bennit Virdure, Negro veteran of New Orleans, La.

Virdure was found guilty of failure to obey the command of a superior officer and feigning disability by a general court-martial sitting at Fort Lawton, Wash., on May 15, 1944. He was sentenced to confinement at hard labor for five years and a dishonorable discharge.

The NAACP plea for change of discharge pointed out the unusually strong reasons for Virdure's failure to obey the command of a superior officer and it said also that Virdure was wrongfully found guilty of feigning disability. There was no evidence introduced at the trial sufficient to sustain the latter charge and the only witness sufficiently expert in medical matters to testify as to whether or not Virdure was pretending illness stated emphatically that he could not say that such was the case. Virdure had been complaining of back trouble, which prevented him from doing arduous labor. During the trial an x-ray of Virdure, taken at the Charity hospital, New Orleans, subsequent to his discharge, was submitted as evidence. The x-ray showed that Virdure suffered a possible ruptured disc between the fourth and fifth lumbar vertebra.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

DON'T FORGET THE 38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the NAACP to be held June 24-29 inclusive in the John Wesley AME Zion church, corner 14th and Corcoran Streets, N.W., Washington, D. C.

All business sessions and evening mass meetings will be held in the church, of which the Rev. Stephen Gill Spottswood is pastor. The Rev. Spottswood is also president of the District of Columbia branch of the NAACP, which will be host to the conference.

What the Branches Are Doing

ALABAMA: Thirty-eigth anniversary of the MONTGOMERY branch was celebrated March 16, with Gloster B. Current, director of branches, as principal speaker.

CALIFORNIA: Membership drives on the Pacific coast are now in full swing. The LOS ANGELES branch began a sixty-day membership drive on May 1 for 20,000 members with a campaign that has received the endorsement of both the Interdenominational and the Baptist ministerial alliances. Membership goals have been set by most of the branches: in DELANO the goal is 300 members; in LONG BEACH, 750; in ALAMEDA county, 5,000; in FRESNO, SAN PEDRO-WILMINGTON, and RIVERSIDE, 300; and in SALINAS, MODESTO, and MARIN county, 200.

A new NAACP branch was recently organized in WALLA WALLA, Washington, with 56 members, according to a report from N. W. Griffiin, director of the West Coast Regional Office. Mr. Griffiin adds that there have been many requests for the formation of new branches on the West Coast. A group of students at the University of Oregon are interested in starting a chapter on their college campus.

The West Coast Regional Office also reports that the YAKIMA, Washington, branch is engaged in a survey of the Yakima Negro population. Mr. McIntosh and Mrs. Kathryn Williams, branch secretary, and Ted Spearman, of the executive committee, are working on the census of Negroes and securing information in order to get to know the Negro population and its precentage in the total population of the town.

CONNECTICUT: Ten resolutions were adopted by the New England regional conference of the NAACP meeting at GREENWICH in March. Among the resolutions were ones calling for an effective anti-lynching law, abolition of the poll tax, support of a permanent FEPC, and enactment of legislation to eliminate the present housing shortage. Guest speaker at the conference was Walter P. Offutt, church secretary of the NAACP.

The following persons were elected officers of the conference: George C. Gordon, Springfield, re-elected president; Joseph G. LeCount, Providence, chairman of the Board; Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks, New Bedford, re-elected vice-president; John W. Lancaster, Jr., Bridgeport, Dr. James Paraham, New Bedford, Dr. Allen Jackson, Hartford, re-elected vice-presidents; Martin L. Canavan, Newport, R. I., treasurer; John F. Lopez, Providence, secretary; and William Newsome, Providence, assistant secretary.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: In answer to a letter from Stephen G. Spottswood, president of the WASHINGTON branch, requesting a statement of policy on segregation in recreational areas, Milo F. Christiansen, superintedent of recreation for the District of Columbia, stated that the Recreation Department prohibits white performers from appearing in centers located in regions G-K (colored) and likewise prohibits Negro performers from appearing in centers located in regions A-F (white). He also stated that the policy of the department precludes interracial group meetings in centers in any region and denies white persons the privilege of audience participation at affairs in regions G-K, and colored persons in regions A-F.

This statement from Mr. Christiansen was the result of an inquiry by Dr. Spottswood and Mr. Hill when use of the Banneker Center was denied the Howard university chapter of the NAACP and the Modern Trend youth council for entertainment of the delegates to the recent legislative conference of NAACP youth groups.

The facts speak for themselves and show very definitely the inroads of prejudice in the District government. Dr. Edwin B. Henderson, chairman of the branch committee on recreation, contends that "They [District government officials] make no attempt to use subtlety or subterfuge any longer. The fields of education and recreation are being retained as the last strongholds of racism. The moment those fields democratize themselves in Washington, at that precise moment will second-hand citizenship be outlawed from the local scene."

The District branch is planning a mammoth mass meeting in protest against the jim-crow policies of the Board of Education and the Department of Recreation.

Story of the Month

THE Houston, Texas, branch of the NAACP played a heroic role in succoring the victims of the Texas City disaster following the explosion of the French freighter *Grandcamp* on April 16.

As soon as announcement of the disaster was heard over the radio, the Houston branch went into action, cooperating with the Red Cross and the other agencies which went to the rescue of the victims. The executive secretary of the branch, Mrs. Lulu B. White, telephoned all the nurses aid and funeral homes in Houston and asked that they send nurses and ambulances to help in the rescue work. The first Negro ambulance to arrive was one from the Fairchild agency; then others came from McCoy, Pruitt, Jackson, Johnson, and Lewis. Their crews worked round the clock delivering the dead and the wounded to morgues, relief stations, and hospitals. Many of the wounded were carried to Houston, Galveston, and hospitals in nearby cities.

All available doctors were called in, among whom were doctors E. B. Perry, Charles E. White, H. J. Lyman, W. J. Minor and L. E. Smith. In Houston, Miss Pittman and Mrs. Adair, administrative assistants in the branch, set up a relief station for the evacuees, giving them information, finding homes for those not hospitalized, and directing a relief committee, headed by Mrs. E. B. Pickett and Mrs. Alice Sims, which collected, food, clothing, dishes, and bedding.

A corps of volunteer workers headed by Mrs. Erma LeRoy and Mrs. Ollie Rochell worked day and night assorting and checking out the evacuees. Truck drivers, under the supervision of Ramsey Robinson, W. M. Dickenson, and Eugene Meredith, took truck loads of clothing and food to the devestated town and turned them over to the president, George B. Sanders, and his committee for distribution.

Monies were collected, and the movie houses in the Negro section of Houston gave the proceeds from their shows and offered their services. A liquor dealer, M. Baumohl, gave ten percent of his sales for one day, which amounted to $23.50 A third ward groceryman brought in a truckload of food, as did the Gordon, Sewell Wholesale company, a white concern. The Working Girls Aid Club specialized in food and dishes, and the maids at the Rice Hotel contributed $125. Many churches made contributions through their alliances.

The branch also cooperated with the police department in the issuing of passes to persons who wished to visit Texas Ciity to look after their dead.

Carpenters have been sent to Texas City and work has already been started on the rebuilding of homes. The Houston branch is still on the job and plans to stay until all is well with the victims of this horrible disaster.

FLORIDA: Kick-off meeting in the membership campaign of the ALACHUA branch was held March 31 at the Mt. Carmel Baptist church, with Milton P. Rooks of Clearwater as principal speaker. The branch quota is 200 members.

Second anniversary of the Alachua branch was held May 25. Branch officers are Rev. W. T. Cook, president; L. B. Foster, vice-president; J. B. Colson, secretary; and J. A. Turner, treasurer. Campaign captains are Tommie Lewis, James Mitchell, David Jones, J. A. Turner, W. T. Cook; Micanopy: B. J. Loadholt; Archer: Mrs. Marie Irons, Mrs. J. E. Willis; Hawthorne: Fred Moffet; Grove Park, Rochell, Windsor: J. T. Gaddy; Paradise: Mrs. Jessie Pool; and Jonesville: D. A. Williams.

The FLORIDA STATE CONFERENCE and the Progressive Voters League of Florida, Inc., have gone on record as being in opposition to the Mathews primary bill, which has been introduced into the Florida state senate. The bill seeks to divorce the primary elections from state control and thus make the Democratic party in Florida a private club. In this way Negro citizens could be barred from voting in the Democratic primary in Florida, which is really the "election."

ILLINOIS: The TRI-CITY branch in April wrote letters to members of the judiciary committee of the Illinois general assembly taking sharp issue with opponents of the state FEPC bill.

IOWA: S. Joe Brown, Des Moines attorney and founder of the first Iowa branch of the NAACP, addressed the initial meeting of the SIOUX CITY branch in April.

MASSACHUTTS: The membership drive of the SPRINGFIELD branch has received the official endorsement of Mayor Daniel B. Brunton.

MICHIGAN: The question as to whether or not the Bob-Lo Excursion Company has legal authority to refuse Negroes the use of their boats was decided by the Michigan State Supreme Court in April. The court ruled that such action by the Bob-Lo Excursion Company was in direct violation of the civil rights statute of Michigan and therefore illegal. This decision by the highest Michigan court winds up a two-year legal battle by the company to make legal its acts of discrimination against Negroes.

The original complaint in this case was handled by the DETROIT branch and prosecuted by Joseph L. Bannigan, former Wayne county prosecutor.

But the branch cannot report equal success with the Michigan State Supreme Court in restrictive covenant cases. In accordance with its precedent established in the case of *Sipes vs. McGhee,* the court ruled again in April, in the cases of Collins Reynolds and Otis Sheldon, that racial restrictions against Negro occupancy are legal.

Police brutality in Detroit reached a new low in April when a detective attached to the Canfield precinct cursed and beat four teenage boys in an attempt to link them with the theft of a peanut vending machine from Oxford hall. Three of these boys, Albert Watson and Charles Smith are only sixteen; Eddie Webster is seventeen.

None of these boys has ever been in trouble before and each has protested his complete lack of knowledge as to what happened with the peanut machine. When they could not give the detective the information he wanted, he not only swore at them and beat them, but used the third-degree as well. The police finally locked them up with hardened criminals as further intimidation.

The Detroit branch is making a vigorous protest to the police commissioner and demanding immediate trial board action against the officers involved.

Kick-off banquet in the membership drive of the branch was held May 1 at the Lucy Thurman YWCA, with Mrs. Daisy Lampkin as principal speaker.

MISSOURI: A report from LeRoy E. Carter, regional co-Ordinator for region 4, outlines the Joplin Plan of organization for wider community participation in the make-it-a-million campaign. According to the Joplin plan four units are organized in a branch, one in each smaller surrounding community. Each unit has its own chairman, who is a member of the branch executive committee, and who is responsible for the execution of the branch program in his community. He makes monthly reports on the activities of his unit to the branch and has a definite membership quota, which is a pro-rata share of the quota of the entire branch.

NEW JERSEY: Under the leadership of its legal staff, headed by attorney Robert Burk Johnson, the CAMDEN branch has filed a complaint against the Camden board of education for refusing to appoint any Negro teachers in the junior or senior high schools of that city. The complaint was filed on behalf of six Negroes, who, having applied for teaching positions in the high schools of Camden, were refused. Negroes at present are not permitted to teach in the high schools of Camden.

In ATLANTIC CITY, the branch reports progress along many lines: securing employment for Negroes in newly opened factories, increasing the branch membership, handling legal cases involving the Negro's civil rights, and conducting popular discussion groups.

A recent meeting of the LONG BRANCH unit was devoted to a discussion of the school survey made in Monmouth county in January by Noma Jensen, then of the national office.

NEW YORK: Campaigners in the membership drive of the ROCHESTER branch for $3,500 and 2,000 members celebrated their success with a dinner at the Brick Church Institute in March. Final reports showed the drive had netted $5,204.76 and 2,051 members. It was the first in Rochester that a drive has netted more than $1,040. Mrs. Harold Nicely and Mrs. Walter W. Post headed the campaign.

NORTH CAROLINA: The ONSLOW county branch held a public meeting in the St. Julia AME Zion church on April 28, with Mrs. L. B. Mitchell, NAACP state organizer, as the guest speaker.

TEXAS: In HOUSTON the make-it-a-million campaign drive is being conducted with four divisions.

"On the Beam" With Youth Councils

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Governor William H. Hastie of the Virgin Islands told 120 delegates to an interracial conference at Howard university, sponsored by the youth division of the NAACP, that "what you are doing is going to win within your lifetime . . . and you will be able to pass on to your children a much better America than it is today."

Governor Hastie spoke at the final session held by the enthusiastic young delegates from NAACP youth councils and college chapters, representing twenty states, north, south and midwest, who met in Washington on April 10 to learn lobbying techniques and to press for action on progressive legislation. He said that since they were talking of today and tomorrow he would give them a few footnotes about yesterday. "The work that is being done in connection with legislation, the political methods and techniques as I see it, is something that was going on in this country seventy-five years ago," the governor declared. "It was easy in those days to forget what was going on in the South, but today we want to fight the battles and see that they are won."

The governor went on to outline the fight for equality in the 1870's. He concluded, "You know that the efforts of 1870 were strangled by force and violence, but I do not think that this time we will be strangled and there is no way of stopping any young people today throughout the country. I think that what you are doing is going to win within your lifetime and I think that you will be able to pass on to your children a much better America than it is today."

The NAACP Howard university chapter and Washington, D. C. youth council acted as hosts to the conference. Mrs. Ruby Hurley, youth secretary of the NAACP, led the delegates to Capitol Hill where conferences were held with senators and congressmen on the importance of supporting the NAACP legislative program. This program strongly supports FEPC, housing, rent control, additional appropriations for school lunches and federal aid to education, and just as strongly condemns poll tax, lynching, jim-crow travel and filibustering.

Greeting the delegates, Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard university, congratulated them on their interest. He declared that the NAACP "is a great organization" which since the civil war has "taught the people and their friends to fight indignity and injustice."

He concluded by pointing out that "from every point of view in regard to the Negro the NAACP is a focal organization with supreme significance."

Speakers at the first session were Leslie Perry, administrative assistant and Clarence Mitchell, Jr., labor secretary, both of the Washington bureau, and Dr. Booker T. McGraw, deputy special assistant to the administrator of the National Housing Agency. Mr. Perry presented the NAACP legislative program and discussed the status of bills in which the Association is interested. Mr. Mitchell discussed the new FEPC bill known as the National Act Against Discrimination in Employment, which was introduced in the Senate on March 27 by Senators Irving M. Ives (R., N. Y.), Leverett Saltonstall (R., Mass.), H. Alexander Smith (R., N.J.), Wayne Morse, (R., Ore.), Dennis Chavez (D., N.M.), James E. Murray (D., Mont.), and Francis J. Myers (D., Pa.).

At the evening session, George Weaver, director of the CIO Committee to Abolish Discrimination, and Mrs. Katherine Shryver, talked about techniques of lobbying.

On Friday morning groups kept appointments with Carroll Reece, chairman of the Republican National Committee, and high placed senators and reperesentatives. In the afternoon each state delegation tried to see its own senators and representatives.

The report that the delegates were made to ride the freight elevator in the Mayflower hotel when they went to visit Gael Sullivan, executive director and vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee, is not true. Not only did delegates go up in the regular passenger elevators, but they refused management's attempt to confine them to just one special passenger

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elevator. They used all elevators just as any other group of visitors might have done.

Book Reviews

CRUSADER'S CRY

***Jim Crow America.* By Earl Conrad. Duell, Sloan and Pearce, New York, 1947. 237 pp. $3.00.**

Good, fresh reading on the race question is furnished by Earl Conrad's book, a swiftly-moving argument citing 1946 incidents and personages and institutions. Conrad is a newspaperman, formerly with *PM* and now with the *Chicago Defender*, so that his work moves with the pace of a daily. But here is no detached, colorless "news story," or careful editorial. Here is indignation and the cry of the crusader.

To Negroes who keep abreast of the times there are many incidents and personalities that are familiar. The reading quality resides in the way the author has tied events, people, and history into a pattern of Jim Crow, the pattern that enmeshes the Negro and his allies wherever they turn.

There is nothing to indicate that Conrad had any experience with the so-called Negro problem prior to the Roosevelt era, and this accounts for some shortcomings in his necessarily sketchy modern history, and his surface interpretation of events. He is much impressed with Harlem's people, the people he met during the Great Depression and through the war years. But there were people on Chicago's Southside, people who came from Dixie by the trainload and built themselves a city within a city, and cannily and arrogantly built themselves a political machine within a machine. There were Negroes who crashed the factories of Detroit and the steel mills of Gary, Youngstown and Pittsburgh. There were Negroes in Kansas City who were stoned for breaking with the Republican party and boldly declaring themselves Democrats. There were Negroes in Atlanta who defeated school bond issues which did not include Negro schools; a Negro editor in Texas whose old-fashioned roll-top desk had two bullet holes —souvenirs of visits by white mobs.

And in New York Jim Crow was once not nearly so far in the background as he is today, even admitting that today is not ideal. Jim Crow was beaten back by Negroes who picketed Broadway theatres for showing *The Birth of a Nation;* by Negroes who battered down segregation and exclusion in Broadway theatres; by Negroes who had pitched battles with whites, fighting with their fists, clubs, paving blocks, guns and knives for a place to live; by Negroes who used their delicately balanced political power to secure the enactment and gradual improvement of the state civil rights law, the best one in the nation.

Similarly Conrad misses most of the DuBois saga and significance, sees the dean of Negro scholars as an antagonist of Booker T. Washington, "strictly a white man's Negro," and as a latter day columnist for the *Defender* and a contributor to the *New Masses!* No word of DuBois's *Souls of Black Folk,* rated by many as the greatest volume of essays by an American in the past fifty years; or of the burning *Litany of Atlanta;* or of the *Crisis* editorials in World War I which caused the magazine to be barred from the mails.

In a chapter on the Negro press we find no word, either, of the great crusading of the *Defender* from its founding in 1906 through the first World War and the Great Migration of Negroes from the South.

But what he lacks in solid history and perspective is compensated for by the author's sincere conviction that Jim Crow must be completely destroyed. Never by one little word does he compromise and he brings to his thesis a skill in marshalling recent events to drive his points home. Perhaps the most valuable parts of the book are those glimpses into the thinking of important white people which Conrad secured readily because he is white and a writer. He takes us to visit with Clare Booth Luce, Carrie Chapman Catt, the late Gene Talmadge, and others.

Whatever slight irritation some readers may experience over the implication that the analysis and effective assault upon Jim Crow began with 1930 and has been carried on principally by left-wing and labor groups, ably assisted by Adam Powell and Paul Robeson, *Jim Crow America* is a hard-hitting, "non-curving" book that is one more weapon in the continuing fight for a truly democratic America.

ROY WILKINS

TRANSMOGRIFICATION

***Kingsblood Royal.* By Sinclair Lewis. New York: Random House, 1947. 348pp. $3.00.**

Like most of Sinclair Lewis' novels, *Kingsblood Royal* deals with a troublous subject. *Main Street* and *Babbitt* dealt with the intellectual barrenness of American life; *Arrowsmith,* with the tribulations of the truth-seeker; *Elmer Gantry,* with our dead religious spirit; and now *Kingsblood Royal,* his twentieth, with that most ticklish and controversial of all American subjects—the "Negro Problem."

To paint Americans, as Mr. Lewis has done in his corpus, as self-distrustful, uncertain, insecure, and full of a hollow optimism and false cheeriness is not nearly so risky as painting the Negro as a human being. For to do so is to violate a deeply entrenched American tribal taboo. Yet Mr. Lewis plunges in boldly. It is obvious that he has gotten up his subject with care and he writes about Negroes and the way they feel and think with about as much authenticity as might be expected of an outsider. His satire is sharp, ironic, sarcastic. The plot is simple, and vividly told except for some rather talky-talky passages near the beginning of the book.

Thirty-one-year-old Neil Kingsblood is a former infantry captain who is now assistant cashier of the Second National Bank in the city of Grand Republic, Minnesota. Before the war Grand Republic had a population of 85,000, but "since the beginning of World War II" the city now has some 90,000 "immortal souls." Kingsblood is a highly respected and extremely conventional member of this community. He is white, male, Protestant, and Republican; he belongs to the right clubs, plays golf, and lets his wife hold his hands in the movies. He has a Negro maid and a car. He is ambitious, efficient, and well thought of by his boss, Mr. John William Prutt. And he lives in a neat colonial cottage in Sylvan Park—which is "as free of Jews, Italians, Negroes, and the exasperatingly poor as it is of noise, mosquitoes and rectangularity of streets"—with his beauteous wife Vestal, a Junior Leaguer (and daughter of one of the city's richest men, Morton Beehouse) his daughter Biddy, and his cocker spaniel "Nigger."

His 60-year-old father Dr. Kenneth M. Kingsblood, a dentist, "had puttered contentedly through life . . . and was proud of having once seen Ex-President Hoover on a train." The father was particularly pleased with Neil and had visions of his son as a financier and civic leader. But what tickled him even more was the notion that he had royal blood. "I'm the king of Britain," he mused, and he urged his son to trace the family "line of descent." Neil researched but came up against a blank wall until he visited his mother's people on a trip to Minneapolis and learned that one of his ancestors, Xavier Pic, had been a *coureur de bois.* But, Gramma Julie went on to explain, old Pic was also part Indian, and that was certainly not a cheery topic for Neil to bring up in his home. On his second trip to Minneapolis he went over to St. Paul and talked with Dr. Werweiss, an official of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Since Neil was not exactly pleased at his discovery of Indian blood in Pic, he made up the tale that while serving as a captain in Italy one of his men had asked him to find out about an ancestor named Xavier *Peake* or *Pic.*. It happens that Dr. Werweiss has an original letter from Xavier Pic addressed to General Henry Sibley, which he turns over to Neil. In reading the letter, Neil fastens upon this line: "I am to all intent a full-blooded negro born in Martinique."

This makes Neil, by the quaint American "one-drop theory," a Negro. He is now sensitively aware of American folklore about Negroes; he is conscious of the black-and-white marble on the hotel floor, of the blue halfmoons of his fingernails, of the civil rights laws in northern states, and, what is worst, of "the astonishing collapse of everything that had been Neil Kingsblood." He draws up "an altogether bankerish table of one branch of his ancestors" to find out that he is 1/32 Negro.

He is haunted by the fear that the whites will discover his secret. Should he tell Vestal? What about Biddy? Deciding that as a Negro he must get to know his people, he visits the Ebenezer Baptist church, pastored by Rev. Evan Brewster, Ph.D., to find its congregation like that of any other middle-class group. Leaving the church he runs into Captain Emerson Woolcape, an old schoolmate, who invites Neil to his home. When the Woolcapes tell Neil their tragic stories of jim crow and segregation, he begins to understand what it means to be a Negro in the USA. At subsequent gatherings with the Woolcapes and their friends, Neil gets a cross section of Negro character, experiences, and opinion. However, it is sophisticated Sophie Concord who makes the deepest impression, and Neil thinks her the most beautiful woman he has ever seen. He lunches with her and even professes love.

Neil's Negro friends keep his secret, and it is Neil himself who makes a dramatic admission of his Negro ancestry at a holiday stag at the Federal Club. When this startling piece of news gets around town, Neil is fired from the bank, his friends drop him, the real estate people demand that he move out of Sylvan Park, his wife is shunned, and the children call Biddy a "Nigger." Neil gets a couple of menial jobs but is forced out of them by prejudice.

Vestal sticks by her husband and when the story ends we find Neil and Vestal standing guard with guns to protect their home from a gathering mob.

Kingsblood Royal is the Literary Guild selection for June. It is a sharply etched satire on our American color psychosis and should be read by every American.

Chief criticism of the book is the one Mr. Lewis himself anticapates when he writes ("A Note About Kingsblood Royal," *Wings*, June) that many people will think that it does not make sense when his hero "flies off the handle and suddenly decides that certain social situations, which he had never even thought of before, were intolerable."

Actually the most implausible thing in the book is this "flying off the handle," as the author calls it, on the part of Neil Kingsblood. There is nothing of the rebel in Mr. Lewis' limning of Kingsblood, not even the incipient rebelliousness of a Paul Riesling in *Babbitt*. A man in Neil's quandary would simply keep quiet, praying to God that no one would find him out. Neil's admission is really the author's *deus ex machine* to get his story going. Mr. Lewis' Negroes are people and not types despite the fact that most of them do not really come alive as individuals. But with its faults the story is interesting and coming as it does from one of our leading novelists should receive wide reading.

J. W. I.

"Street Scene"

(Continued from page 174)

whether a performer must believe intensely in the social philosophy of his vehicle. Obviously, and from some of their own mouths, the performers in *Street Scene* do not; equally and obviously, the performers in *Call Me Mister* and *Finian's Rainbow* do. Who knows? Perhaps it is just this crusading quality which stops the "complicated musical tapestry" (to use the phrase of William Hawkins of the New York *Word-Telegram*) at the edge of the stage, and permits the other two shows to leap across the footlights and ignite the audience.

Certainly the awareness of the contemporary actor to the soil and environment which give him life is a reassuring thing these days. The action of Actors Equity in ordering the National Theatre in Washington, D. C., to purge itself of racial discrimination or do without professional stage plays, cannot be overlooked as a great step forward for the American actor, socially and artistically. It may mean that the actor is beginning to realize his responsibility to society through and beyond entertainment.

Even so, this native opera belongs very definitely in the record book. First, it shows how the basic understandings of the American melting pot as a force for democracy are most effectively displayed. Second, the emergence of young people like Helen Ferguson is a challenge to talented Negro adolescents to become presentation-worthy, for the opportunities are surely available. Third, this proof of Langston Hughes' ability to write acceptable lyrics for the musical stage will have to be considered in the evaluation of this American poet of twenty years' standing. Mr. Hughes, incidentally, is hoping for the early presentation of the opera based on the life of Dessalines, the Haitian liberator, for which he wrote the book, and for which William Grant Still wrote the music.

Whatever its merits, *Street Scene* calls for more of the same. Langston Hughes has suggested *Stevedore* as a candidate for transformation into a bristling musical drama. Let us have more of these social musicals; and if it is at all possible, let them be acted by "electrical" companies that believe in what they are saying.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, BRANCH *relief workers packing relief supplies for Texas City, reading from left to right: Mrs. Lillian Bonner, Mrs. Alice Wright, Mrs. Anne Pittman, Mrs. C. V. Adair, Mrs. Ida McCoy, and Mrs. Lottie Williams.*

New Jersey "FEPC"

(Continued from page 171)

"Any person, employer, labor organization or employment agency, who or which shall willfully resist, prevent, impede or interfere with the Commissioner or any representative of the Division in the performance of duty under this act, or *shall willfully violate an order of the Commissioner*, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and be punishable by imprisonment for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than $500 or by both . . ."

Hypothetical Case

For purposes of practical illustration, let us take a hypothetical case and follow it through to the bitter end (which, by the way, has not been required to date). Jane Brown files with the division an affidavit making certain, specific charges against the Blank Mfg. Co., which discriminated against her because of her race. Miss Brown is interviewed by a representative of the division to check carefully upon all the elements of the incident and her written charges. This interview also determines whether Miss Brown is a person qualified for the position in question, for the obvious purpose of finding any legitimate reasons for her rejection by the employer. The division representative then embarks upon a thorough investigation of all elements of the alleged discriminatory incident until the facts are well established.

Under the law, the division is then required to enter into a reasonable period of conciliation and persuasion, enabling the Blank Mfg. Co. to alter its policy voluntarily by providing employment for Miss Brown commensurate with her training and experience,

and by thereafter employing all persons on this basis without regard to race, color, creed or national origin. Should these efforts be fruitless, the commissioner calls a public hearing, with authority to subpoena persons and records. If the testimony presented in such hearing upholds Miss Brown's charges, the company is served with an order to cease and desist from the practice and policy. It is well to note that the processes of investigation and conciliation are completely "off the record" under the provisions of the law, but that public hearing is open to the press at the will of the commissioner, and all matters pertaining thereto become matters of public record.

The commissioner's order is subject to review by the State Supreme Court, upon petition of either complainant or respondent. Affirmation by this court of the commissioner's findings in public hearing, and of the justice of his order, makes the Blank Mfg. Co. liable to citation for contempt of court should it persist in the discriminatory practices which were the subject of complaint. Such persistence, then, also becomes subject to prosecution under the charge of violation of the commissioner's order, leading upon conviction to such penalty as may be imposed by the court.

In evaluating the efficacy of the law therefore, it should be noted that three different weapons are made available to the complainant and the division. The first of these is the weapon of publicity, which accompanies the commissioner's scheduling and holding of a public hearing. Not many employers or labor unions are willing to court the unfavorable effect of this kind of press comment. The second weapon is the penalty of contempt of court which may follow affirmation of the commissioner's order by the Supreme Court, and the third is that which may result from prosecution in the Court of Common Pleas.

As stated earlier in this article, however, the enforcement provisions and the weight of the usable penalties, are not true measures of the overall effectiveness of the law. It is well to remember that *all* employers and *all* labor unions are not wilful violators of rules of democratic practice.

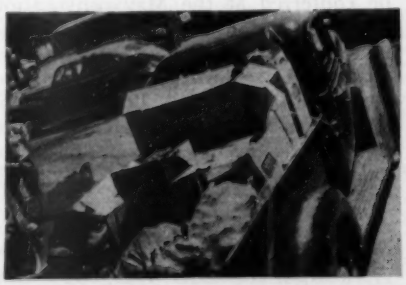
Actually, the majority who have employed discriminatory practices, have done so through deep-seated, though usually fallacious, fears; fears based upon rumor, isolated experiences, and upon the types of misinformation and miseducation that have characterized inter-group relations in American life. Others have followed these practices as a matter of convenience—it is much easier to follow prevailing practices than to change them.

PROTEST HOTEL SERVICE—*A scene in the Flemish room of the Neil House, Columbus hotel across the street from the Ohio capitol, where delegates to the National CIO Education Conference protested that meals had been refused to Negro delegates.*

The educational features of the law, consequently, can be made the most effective instrument, providing of course, the term "education" connotes a dynamic, meaningful relationship to the total content of the problem of discrimination.

It is with this in mind, therefore, that the division immediately set up a series of conferences in the state. The first of these was with a group of the most influential industrialists in the state, with whom were discussed all aspects of the problem of discrimination; its social cost to the state community; its effect upon the social attitudes of minorities; its measurable results in terms of community relationships; and the total contribution toward ill-will and potential conflict being made by every discriminating employer. In this and subsequent meetings with employer groups, confessions were made that this was the first time such interpretations had made an impression. Similarly, a conference was held with the press association of the state to emphasize the significance of discriminatory "help wanted" advertisements and to obtain sympathetic interpretation of the law.

The role of the placement agency in "aiding and abetting" employers in the act of discriminating was recognized at the outset. While still under federal supervision, managers and supervisors of every New Jersey office of the Employment Service were met by division executives in forum discussions. They, and subsequently their local staff members, were given explicit interpretations, instructions and warnings, as was done with a large segment of the private employment agencies in the state. To this latter group the Commissioner of Labor gave the unequivocal ultimatum that a violation of the anti-discrimination law by any agency would lead to cancellation of that agency's license.



HOUSTON, TEXAS, BRANCH *sends truck load of food and clothing to victims of Texas City disaster.*

Division representatives are meeting employer groups, service clubs, educators, professional bodies and others in every corner of the state—people who hitherto have expressed little concern with the problem of inter-group relationships. In the first year of operation nearly 300 such groups, representing approximately 30,000 people, engaged in these frank discussions of the problem. Perhaps the most effective bit of education however, has attended a series of studies of employment practices, conducted by the field staff under the sponsorship of the County Councils created by the State Council Against Discrimination.

To date, these surveys have been conducted in five counties, reaching more than 250 of the state's largest employers. While securing for the division basic information as to employment practices, minority group employment, and employer and employee attitudes, this type of contact has permitted an intimate interpretation of the reasons for and meaning of the law, as well as frank discussion of the employer's opinions and fears. Although supporting statistical data are not now available, it is the considered opinion of division executives that this approach has served to change and liberalize the policies of more employers than have the 153 complaints which have been received and adjusted to March 1 of this year.

More than half the complaints received by the division in the nineteen months of its operation have been "verified" or formal complaints submitted in affidavit form as required by law. A great many persons neglected to follow up their first indignant telephone call or complaint with a formal affidavit.

However, as the description of New Jersey racial patterns and mores has indicated, the relatively small number of affidavits by no means measures the extent of this discrimination in employment. These patterns have existed for so long and have become so taken for granted that it is little wonder that

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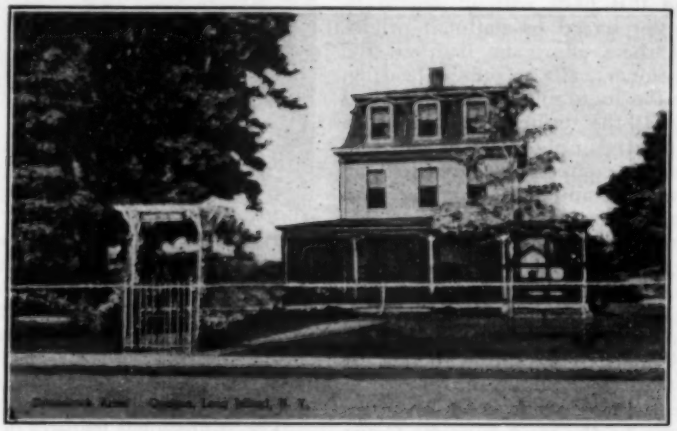

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aggrieved parties should fail to avail themselves, instantly and in great numbers, of the remedy now available.

While the air is lively with debate as to the hopes of enacting a federal fair employment practice bill, it would be well for individual citizens, and for agencies interested in eliminating discrimination based upon race, color, or religion, to bear in mind that the effectiveness of this type of legislation depends upon the use of it by the citizen himself.

The New Jersey division has made an auspicious beginning in quiet work with employers, schools, employment agencies, and key groups throughout the state. The Commission has got underway with its local councils which are study and education groups designed to spread an understanding of the new law by both workers and employers.

The New Jersey experience clearly indicates that in addition to the educational activities of the state agencies, civic groups, interracial bodies such as the NAACP and the Urban League, church groups, labor unions and community clubs must help to educate the individual to his rights under this law.

The minority groups wanted anti-discrimination legislation. The war-time FEPC proved (if proof were needed) that widespread, senseless and undemocratic discrimination in employment existed. New Jersey enacted a law and thus discharged in substantial part its obligation to its minority group citizens in the area of employment. Upon these citizens now devolves the task of seeing that the law is made to work.

College News

(Continued from page 168)

Fisk students as being on the dean's list for the second semester of 1946-47.

SHAW UNIVERSITY was host March 28-29 to the annual festival of the North Carolina High-School Drama Association. Under the technical supervision of Elizabeth Schmoke, the association presented thirteen one-act plays representing schools in as many communities in North Carolina.

Philippa Duke Schuyler, pianist and composer of New York City, was presented in a concert at the university April 18. Dr. W. H. R. Powell, pastor of the Shiloh Baptist church, Philadelphia, Pa., delivered the annual message at the theological alumni day exercises April 10. For the first time in sixteen years Shaw reports more men in the freshmen class than women. The ratio is about three to two in a class of approximately 250 students.

Provision for an increase in faculty salaries at Shaw has been made by the board of trustees. Honorary degrees to be conferred at the May convocation were also announced by the board, the recipients to be: Rev. O. S. Bullock, pastor of First Baptist church, Raleigh; Rev. William Holmes Borders, pastor of Wheat Street Baptist church, Atlanta; and Rev. H. G. Pope, pastor of Salem Baptist church, Jersey City, N. J.

Twenty-nine-year-old Albert Witcher, a 1942 graduate of LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.), has been appointed as vice-consul to Liberia. *Forty Cords of Wood*, an autobiography by the 77-year-old Kansas City Physician, Dr. J. Edward Perry, president of the university board of curators, is now off the press.

On April 25, Lincoln was host to the annual educational conference sponsored by the college section of the Missouri State Teachers Association and the university. The fifth annual spring conference of the industrial arts and vocational association was held at the university, May 2-3.

Problems causing the rapid disintegration of today's American family and their effect upon the declining status of society's "basic unit" received the attention of the twenty-first annual Home-Making Institute at BENNETT COLLEGE, April 20-25. Among the prominent speakers present were Dr. Gladys Groves, distinguished authorer and lecturer; Nannie Burroughs, secretary, Woman's Convention; Mrs. Grace Townes Hamilton, executive secretary, Atlanta Urban League; Dr. Augusta Fox Bronner, psychologist, Boston, Mass.; Dr. Donald Klaiss, sociologist, University of North Carolina; Frances Fuller, occupational therapist; B. L. Smith, superintendent of schools, Greensboro, N. C.; Dr. Allan Knight Chalmers, New York City; and Dr. Dudley Porter Miller, lecturer in applied psychology, Yale university.

An understanding of human relations was the subject of an address at Bennett by Justice Douglas L. Edmonds of the supreme court of California.

LEGAL DIRECTORY

The following directory of some of the many colored lawyers in this country is carried in response to numerous inquiries from readers desiring to contact attorney outside their home towns. THE CRISIS maintains no legal bureau, and the N.A.A.C.P. handles only cases involving color discrimination, segregation or denial of citizen rights.

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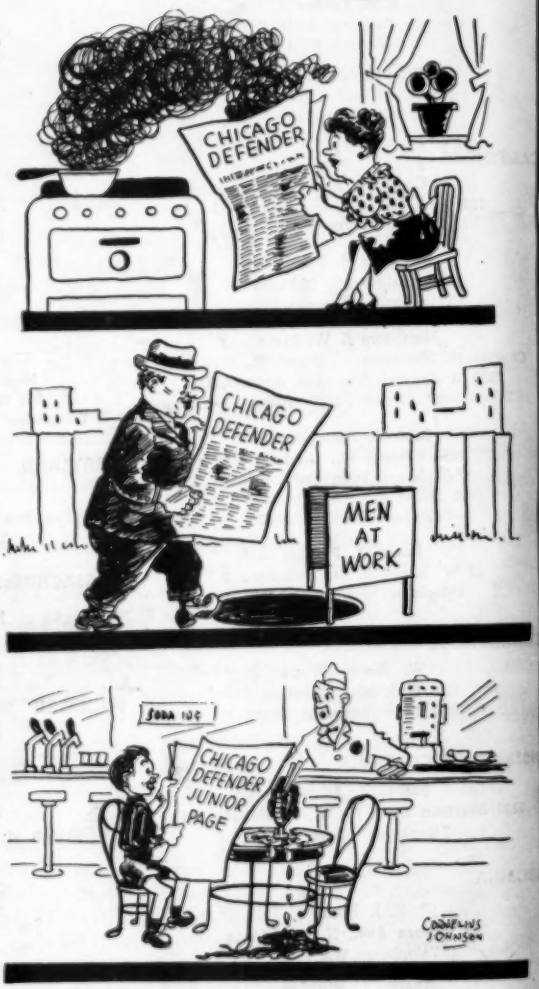

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